MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

11 MARCH 1986

Lebanon

The Islamic Jihad denied responsibility for kidnapping the French television crew in Beirut, stating in a note to a Western news agency that the kidnappers had falsely used the Jihad's name and were misrepresenting its position, AFP reported. However, the note reaffirmed the Jihad's claim to have executed French researcher Michel Seurat and it was accompanied by photographs apparently showing Seurat's body. The note said that all future Jihad communiques will be accompanied by pictures of one of the Jihad's hostages, whose life will depend on "the speed of the French Government in satisfying our demands."

As for mediation efforts, French emissary Razzah Ra'd began talks with Seurat's kidnappers 11 March, Paris radio reported, noting that Ra'd is seeking to discover if Seurat has indeed been executed. AFP noted earlier that Iran turned down France's request to allow a French envoy to visit Tehran in connection with the hostages in Lebanon. Meanwhile, Amal Movement leader Nabih Birri denounced the kidnapping of the French television crew in a statement reported by Beirut radio, calling for the immediate release of the four Frenchmen.

Iran-Iraq War

Iraqi planes hit two "large maritime targets" 9-10 March and attacked a "very large maritime target" 11 March, according to Iraqi military statements broadcast by Voice of the Masses radio.

Saudi Arabia

Despite oil price reductions, lowered Saudi oil production, and "repercussions" from other factors, Saudi Arabia will maintain all its domestic programs designed to "safeguard the citizen's prosperity," King Fahd announced in a speech to the Cabinet and nation reported by SPA. Riyadh radio subsequently reported that the cabinet decided to keep the present budget in force and reassess the situation "in the next 5 months."

Pakistan

Five Ghanaians and a Pakistani were arrested in connection with an alleged "foreign-inspired terrorist network," AFP reported citing Karachi police sources. A Libyan commercial official is also being held for questioning amid suspicions that he provided funds to antigovernment terrorist groups in Pakistan, AFP added, citing Pakistani press reports.

FBIS DAILY REPORT
CONTENTS
Middle East & Africa

Vol V No 047 11 March 1986

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW i

INTER-ARAB AFFAIRS

'Arafat Reiterates Adherence to Amman Agreement *[QNA]* .... A 1
    Denies Existence of Abu Nidal *[MENA]* .... A 1
'Arafat Briefs Finnish Parliamentary Delegation *[Baghdad Voice of the PLO]* .... A 1
'Arafat Criticized for Tunis 'Capitulation' .... A 1
    Damascus: 'Deviationist Leadership' *[Damascus]* .... A 1
    DFLP's Hawatimah *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* .... A 2
Inter-Parliamentary Union Defers Libyan Application *[Amman]* .... A 2
Habash: Husayn Seeks Role as PLO Replacement *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* .... A 2
London Magazine Predicts Palestinian Reconciliation .... A 2
Revolutionary Heroes Attack Plant, Bus Stations *[Baghdad Voice of the PLO]* .... A 3
    Soldier Attacked on King David Street *[Baghdad Voice of the PLO]* .... A 3
    Joint Forces Attack in South Lebanon *[Baghdad Voice of the PLO]* .... A 4
Briefs: InteNewEast Jerusalem Paper .... A 4

ARABIAN PENINSULA

BAHRAIN

Foreign Minister Interviewed on Iran-Iraq War, Oil *[London AL-MAJALLAH 5-11 Mar]* .... C 1

KUWAIT

Tanzanian Energy Minister Arrives 9 Mar .... C 1

OMAN

Foreign Minister Returns From Visit to Pakistan *[WAKH]* .... C 1
Papers on Peace Process, Murphy's Middle East Tour .... C 2

PDRY

Journalist Reportedly Dies From Torture in Aden *[MENA]* .... C 2

SAUDI ARABIA

King Chairs Cabinet Session, Discusses Budget .... C 2
    Cabinet Issues Statement .... C 3
    Information Minister on Meeting .... C 4
AL-YAWM on Murphy's Latest Middle East Trip *[9 Mar]* .... C 4

UAE

Papers Question Murphy's Next Mideast Tour .... C 5

EGYPT

Mubarak Addresses People's Assembly on Cairo Riots .... D 1
Abu Ghazalah on Military 'Control' of Civilians .... D 9
Al-Azhar Shaykh Expresses Support for Mubarak .... D 10
Further on Visit by U.S. Official Richard Murphy .... D 10

    Received by 'Abd al-Majid .... D 10
    Delivers Message to Mubarak .... D 10
Delegation To Visit U.S. To Promote Tourism .... D 10
Mubarak Receives Sri Lankan Trade Minister .... D 10
Ghali, Soviet Ambassador Discuss Namibia 10 Mar .... D 10

IRAQ

Tariq 'Aziz Writes on Syria's Stance on War .... E 1
Foreign Minister Returns Home From Egypt .... E 2
UAE Paper on War, British Involvement *[AL-KHALIJ 10 Mar]* .... E 2
Reportage on Combat Operations in War With Iran .... E 3
    'Very Large' Maritime Target Hit .... E 3
    Communique No 2,144 .... E 3

JORDAN

Netherlands Foreign Minister Arrives for Visit .... F 1
    Received by King Husayn .... F 1
    Received by Prince Hasan, Al-Masri .... F 1
King Husayn Telephones Mubarak, Saddam Husayn .... F 1
Prince Hasan Opens Amman Seminar on ARABSAT .... F 1
AL-DUSTUR on Murphy's New Mideast Tour *[8 Mar]* .... F 1

LEBANON

Further on French Hostages, Seurat Execution .... G 1
    Photos Show Seurat 'Corpse' *[AFP]* .... G 1
    Islamic Jihad Criticizes Negotiations *[AFP]* .... G 1
    Further on 'Jihad' Statement *[Voice of Lebanon]* .... G 1
    Birri Urges Hostage Release .... G 1
    Hizballah-'Jihad' Ties Denied .... G 2
    Mediator Ra'd Arrives in Beirut *[Radio Free Lebanon]* .... G 2
    Meets With Kidnappers *[Paris]* .... G 2
    AL-NAHAR on Ra'd Mission *[10 Mar]* .... G 2
Silvestrini Conveys Papal Message to Al-Jumayyil .... G 3
    Karami on Talks With Papal Envoy .... G 3
    Silvestrini, Muslim Leaders Talk *[Voice of Lebanon]* .... G 4
UN's Goulding Talks To Press, Returns to Beirut .... G 4
    Goulding, Birri Hold Talks .... G 4
    Goulding Talks With Junblatt *[Voice of the Mountain]* .... G 5
Al-Hashim Takes Over as Voice of Lebanon Director *[AL-NAHAR 9 Mar]* .... G 5
Crossing Points in Beirut Closed; Gunfire in Mountain .... G 5

SYRIA

Lebanon's Franjiyah Arrives in Damascus .... H 1
    Received by Al-Asad .... H 1
Foreign Minister Al-Shar' Returns From U.K., Austria .... H 1
Reportage on Al-Shar' Visit to Austria .... H 1
    Interviewed by AL-QABAS *[9 Mar]* .... H 1
Council of Ministers Hears Al-Kasm, Al-Shar' Reports .... H 2
Press Comment on Egypt's 'Uprising,' Murphy Tour .... H 3
Israeli Media Creating False Fear of Attack .... H 3

ISRAEL

Syrian 'Limited Strike' in Golan Predicted *[London THE SUNDAY TELEGRAPH 9 Mar]* .... I 1
Golan Druze Resume Activity in Support of Israel .... I 1
Peres: Israel Prepared To Talk Peace With Syria .... I 1
    Warns Al-Asad 'We Will Fight Back' .... I 2

- Rabin Notes Rise in Terrorism Abetted by Syria ... I 2
- MA'ARIV on Motives Behind Syrian Threat *[10 Mar]* ... I 2
- Rabin, UN's Goulding Exchange Views on S. Lebanon ... I 3
- Economics Minister on Settlement for Territories *['AL HAMISHMAR 9 Mar]* ... I 3
- 50 West Bank Administrative Detainees Released ... I 3
- Tourism Minister Tours Jerusalem Mosques ... I 4
- 'Reagan Plan' To Aid Middle East States Proposed *[YEDI'OT AHARONOT 9 Mar]* ... I 4
- Nisim: Murphy Efforts Stand No Chance 'Whatsoever' ... I 4
- Reportage on Herut Conference in Session ... I 4
  - Levi Supporters Riot, Prevent Vote ... I 4
  - Levi List Approved; Voting Begins ... I 5
  - Shamir-Arens Camp Wins 1st Victory ... I 5
- E. Jerusalem Electric Claims Government Owes Money ... I 5
  - Shahal Rejects 'Loan' Request ... I 5

INTER-AFRICAN AFFAIRS

- Sudanese Premier Visits OAU Liberation Committee *[PANA]* ... P 1
- PANA To Launch New Information Campaign *[PANA]* ... P 1
- OAU Official on African Satellite System *[PANA]* ... P 1

NORTH AFRICA

ALGERIA

- Bendjedid Cited on Internal, External Situation ... Q 1
- APS Reviews Ibrahimi's Gulf, Southern Africa Trips ... Q 1
- FLN Delegation Returns From CPSU Congress ... Q 1
- Foreign Currency Allowances Slashed in Algeria *[AFP]* ... Q 1
  - Further Details ... Q 1

LIBYA

- Al-Qadhdhafi Receives Message From Lebanese CP Head ... Q 2
- U.S. Daily Cited on U.S. 'Terrorist' Plans, Budget ... Q 2
- Weekly on Policy of U.S., 'Reactionary' Regimes ... Q 2
- Sudanese Defense Minister Departs 10 March ... Q 3
- Continuing Reportage on Fighting in Chad ... Q 3
  - Clash Between GUNT, French Forces ... Q 3
  - Troops, Supplies Leave Zaire ... Q 3

MAURITANIA

- Joint Commission Meeting With Tunisia Opens 10 March *[AFP]* ... Q 3

SUDAN

- Siwar al-Dhahab Holds News Conference ... Q 4
  - Notes TMC Accomplishments ... Q 4
- Discusses Garang Operations, Elections ... Q 4
  - No Preconditions for Dialogue With Garang ... Q 5
  - Views SPLA Operations Escalation ... Q 5
  - Warns Against 'War of Words' ... Q 5
  - Says Some Party Leaders 'Belittle Law' ... Q 5
- Prime Minister Daf'allah Returns From Tanzania ... Q 5
  - Comments on Relations With Ethiopia ... Q 5
- UAE Paper Interviews Foreign Minister *[AL-ITTIHAD AL-USBU'I 6 Mar]* ... Q 6
- Security Agreement Reached With Uganda ... Q 6
- Radio SPLA: Landmine Kills 32 Government Troops ... Q 7
- SPLA Ambush Claims 228 Government Casualties 2-3 *[Radio SPLA]* ... Q 7
- Radio SPLA: Gogrial Army Garrison 'Raided' 3 Mar ... Q 7

SPLA Radio: Defeated Rumbek Forces Urged To Surren .... Q 7

CENTRAL AFRICA

CAMEROON

President Biya Returns From Trip to United States .... S 1

CHAD

FRG Team Concludes Inspection Tour of Projects .... S 1

ZAIRE

Mobutu Promulgates 1986-90 5-Year Economic Plan .... S 1
State Commissioner Attends Brussels Credit Meeting *[AFP]*........ S 3

WEST AFRICA

BURKINA FASO

Delegation Returns From 27th CPSU Congress .... T 1

GHANA

PNDC Member Obeng Returns From CPSU Congress .... T 1
Netherlands Promises Recovery Program Grant .... T 1

GUINEA-BISSAU

Three Nations Agree on Pact To Improve Customs .... T 1

LIBERIA

EEC Sending $44 Million for Rural Development .... T 2

NIGER

Niger Basin Authority Meeting Opens in Niamey .... T 2
  Meeting Ends;Further Study Planned .... T 2

NIGERIA

Chadian Recruiting on Federal Territory Nonexistent .... T 3

SIERRA LEONE

Minah Voices Concern Over Reported Arms Cache .... T 3
Momoh London Meeting With UK's Thatcher Reported .... T 3

SENEGAL

President Diouf Departs for Talks in Austria .... T 3

SOUTHERN AFRICA

MOZAMBIQUE

Frelimo Political Bureau Issues Communique .... U 1

SOUTH AFRICA

- Natal-KwaZulu Joint Authority Proposal Presented ..... U 3
  - Heunis on Meeting, Proposal ..... U 4
- Police Hold Boycott Leader for Questioning ..... U 5
  - Le Grange Bans Leader for 5 Years *[Umtata]* ..... U 5
- CBS Reporters To Be Allowed To Remain ..... U 5
- Blacks Lift Eastern Cape Consumer Boycott ..... U 6
- UDF To Hold First Public Rally Since Emergency ..... U 6
- ANC Denies Running Closed Botswana News Agency *[AFP]* ..... U 7
- Pretoria Students Allegedly Oppose Open Campus ..... U 7
- 360 Students in Paarl Demand White Facilities ..... U 7
- 10,000 Mine Workers on Strike on West Rand ..... U 7
  - Management Says Strike 'Illegal' ..... U 7
- Zulus Strike Over Pondos' Return to Work ..... U 8
- Warmbaths 'More or Less' Normal After Stayaway ..... U 8
- SAAWU Offices Burned in Cape Arson Attack *[Umtata]* ..... U 8
- Unrest Flares Against Removal of Brits Residents ..... U 8
- Police Identify Police Station Bombing Suspect ..... U 9
  - SAPA: Suspect's Sister Also Held ..... U 9
- Police Reject Detainees' Torture Claims ..... U 9
- 6 Killed Before Motetedam Funeral of Unrest Victim *[AFP]* ..... U 10
  - Motetema Calm; Many Released ..... U 10
  - Lebowa Police Commissioner Reports ..... U 10
- One Killed, 13 Injured in White River Court ..... U 11
  - Witnesses Say Three Killed ..... U 11
- Black Attacker Kills One White Near White River ..... U 11
- One Killed in Violence at Durban's Lamontville *[Umtata]* ..... U 11
- 107 People Reportedly Die in February Violence ..... U 12
- Police Issue Latest Unrest Situation Reports ..... U 12
  - Late 10 Mar ..... U 12
  - Early 11 Mar ..... U 12
- Press Comments on Current Issues, Problems ..... U 12

ZAMBIA

- SDAR President Arrives on 2-Day Visit ..... U 15
  - Dinner Speeches Target RSA, U.S. ..... U 15
  - RSA-Moroccan Relationship Discussed ..... U 15
  - SDAR President Departs 7 Mar ..... U 15

'Arafat Reiterates Adherence to Amman Agreement
GF101938 Doha QNA in Arabic 1755 GMT 10 Mar 86

[Text] Kuwait, 10 Mar (QNA) — Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, has reiterated his adherence to the Amman agreement despite the speech by King Husayn of Jordan which announced a halt in joint Jordanian-PLO action. He has also asserted the PLO's eagerness to maintain good ties with Jordan.

In a statement to the Kuwaiti newspaper *AL-QABAS* today, 'Arafat ruled out the possibility of convening the PNC in the near future to discuss the issue, as there are presently more important events taking place in the Palestinian and Arab arenas.

The Palestinian leader rejected allegations against his credibility. He also refused to accuse Jordan of abandoning the Arab summit resolutions.

In conclusion, the Palestinian leader expressed readiness to open a dialogue with Syria, but he noted that there are no positive initiatives toward this matter by Damascus. He also ruled out his returning to Beirut.

Denies Existence of Abu Nidal
NC101615 Cairo MENA in English 1540 GMT 10 Mar 86

[Text] Paris, March 10 (MENA) — Palestine Liberation Organisation Chairman Yasir 'Arafat asserted the organisation's adherence to the Jordanian-Palestinian accord. He added that the organisation does not think of rescinding the agreement though King Husayn had frozen it in his latest speech.

In an interview with the Paris-based *AL-YAWM AL-SABI'* Arabic magazine published today, 'Arafat [Abu 'Ammar] said that the surprise in King Husayn's speech was [word indistinct] the timing, adding that a delegate from the organisation should have gone to Amman to continue then discussion with the Jordanian side.

He added that Hani al-Hasan, PLO chairman political advisor, was virtually dispatched but could not meet with any Jordanian official in this period and until the Jordanian monarch's speech was delivered.

On the Palestinian response to King Husayn's speech, Abu 'Ammar said that the issue as a whole was not a speech from one party and a reply from the other but was a statement to the Palestinian people and the Arab nation in particular.

He added that he hoped that the accusations directed to them would not have been issued in such a speech.

On his view about the political situation after the latest Iranian offensive on Iraq, 'Arafat said although the Iranian attack was very massive, the Iraqi forces contained it skillfully.

"Despite my being a member of the two committees of the Islamic Conference and the Nonaligned Movement, entrusted to reach a peaceful solution to the Gulf conflict, I strongly condemn the last Iranian attack", 'Arafat said.

He called for halting this war and pointed out that in its shadow, the Palestinian resistance men were deported from Beirut, the Khalil (Hebron) Shrine was endangered and Israel endeavoured to Judaize Al-Aqsa Mosque.

Commenting on the reports of his alleged planned return to Beirut, 'Arafat said he would not go back, but the point is that there are half million Palestinians there and nobody can remove them from the map. He was referring to the plots hatched against the Palestinian camps and were all thwarted.

The PLO chief strongly denounced the assassination of Zafir al-Masri, the mayor of Nablus. The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine claimed the responsibility for his killing, 'Arafat said, thought the PFLP is still member of the PLO.

"But as to the statement issued in the name of Abu Nidal, I have not given it the slightest attention for there is nobody called Abu Nidal. It is rather some Arab intelligence bodies which use his name, 'Arafat concluded.

'Arafat Briefs Finnish Parliamentary Delegation
JN101911 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1715 GMT 10 Mar 86

[Text] Brother leader Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] has received a Finnish parliametary delegation in Tunis. The Finnish parliamentary delegation is currently visiting Tunisia. Brother leader Abu 'Ammar briefed the Finnish delegation on the latest developments in the Palestinian cause on the Arab and international levels and the systematic terrorist practices our people in the occupied homeland are experiencing at the hands of the Zionist forces of occupation. He also briefed the delegation on the state of affairs of our people in Palestinian camps in Lebanon.

'Arafat Criticized for Tunis 'Capitulation'

Damascus: 'Deviationist Leadership'
JN101652 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1530 GMT 10 Mar 86

[Palestine broadcast: "Talk of the Return" program]

[Text] Brothers on the road to revolution and liberation: The statement issued by 'Arafat's central committee in Tunis confirms the basic fact that this leadership has absolutely detached itself from the march of the Palestinian national struggle and has become completely dedicated to the policy of subservience to the United States, even though this leadership tried in its statement to blame the United States for the failure of the settlement efforts in which this leadership was fully engaged instead of continuing the Palestinian armed struggle.

The capitulation of this deviationist leadership to U.S. policy in the region, as well as its running after a U.S. settlement, prevented it from defending itself at a time when it was accused of lacking credbility, or, in other words, of lying, which is the worst accusation against a leadership which claims it is leading a people and a militant organization. This leadership refrained from defending itself for fear of uncovering the hidden cards regarding its stands, concessions, and tampering with the Palestinian fate. Doing so proves the accusation agaisnt this leadership. This leadership only refrained from defending itself because its involvement in the settlement course renders it unable to defend itself and because its feet which went deep into the mud can no longer be extricated from that mud. Thus, this leadership prefers to stay where it is, running after the U.S. Administration and begging solutions from this administration. Moreover, this leadership prefers to stick to the Camp David regimes and to gamble on the possibility of expanding the Camp David framework.

The fact which our masses fully realize now is that the deviation of the 'Arafat leadership is an option chosen by this leadership itself and not an obligation as portrayed by this leadership for some time. Our masses realize now that the 'Arafat leadership neither seeks Palestinian national unity nor the continuation of Palestinian armed struggle. It only seeks a position in a U.S. settlement.

DFLP's Hawatimah

JN101240 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic
1200 GMT 10 Mar 86

[Louis Faris dispatch from Damascus]

[Excerpt] The Fatah uprising [dissident] movement has issued a statement denouncing the statement issued by the PLO in response to King Husayn's speech. The Fatah movement said the PLO statement was a continuation of the path of capitulation.

Mr Nayif Hawatimah [secretary general of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP)], held a news conference in which he said that the PLO response ignored the main issues that constitute the political response to the king's speech, ignored the Amman agreement, and bypassed the intra-Palestinian crisis. Hawatimah demanded Palestinian national unity based on canceling the Amman agreement and commitment to the national program. Hawatimah also rejected King Hassan II's call for establishing a Palestinian government-in-exile, stressing promoting armed struggle.

On another level, the 54th conference of the liaison officers of the regional bureaus of the Arab Boycott of Israel Office opened here today with the office's commissioner general Zuhayr 'Aqil attending. The conference will consider and discuss the documents presented by the blacklisted foreign companies, and will consider lifting the ban on companies that can prove they have severed relations with Israel.

Inter-Parliamentary Union Defers Libyan Application

JN102127 Amman Domestic Service in English
2100 GMT 10 Mar 86

[Text] The Arab Inter-Parliamentary Union [APU] concluded its 17th session in Amman and discussed a number of issues included in its agenda. The council decided to defer Libya's application for membership for further study by a committee including delegates from each of the parliaments represented at the meeting. The council also endorsed the agenda of the fourth session of the Arab Parliamentary Union conference due to open in Amman tomorrow under royal patronage.

Habash: Husayn Seeks Role as PLO Replacement

JN071825 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic
1745 GMT 7 Mar 86

[Louis Faris dispatch from Damascus]

[Excerpt] PFLP Secretary General Dr George Habash delivered a speech at a popular rally in Al-Yarmuk refugee camp in Damascus today on Martyrs Day. Dr Habash vehemently criticized Jordanian King Husayn, accusing him of trying to cancel the PLO's role so that he can replace it as the Palestinian people's representative. He said that what King Husayn had stated on the dissociation between the issue of the land and that of the people is unacceptable and serious. Dr Habash cast doubt about the possibility of regaining the land through diplomatic action which depends on the United States.

George Habash wondered about the purpose of suspending coordination with the current PLO leadership and abidance by the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement. He added that King Husayn's speech shows that the objective is to put pressure on the PLO to have it offer more concessions and to remove obstacles facing the U.S. weapons deal to Jordan. He also stressed that the PLO is the sole legitimate representative, and not any other party.

He emphasized that the PLO is the Palestinian people's only hope. He called for immediate action to establish comprehensive national unity among all Palestinian factions. He also called for the abrogation of the Amman agreement.

Dr Habash spoke about Lebanon and the events it has been experiencing following the conclusion of the tripartite agreement. He accused the agents of Israel and the United States of working to cancel this agreement. Dr Habash appealed to all Palestinians in Lebanon to cooperate with the Lebanese Nationalist Movement, especially with respect to the liberation of southern Lebanon from Israeli occupation.

London Magazine Predicts Palestinian Reconciliation

PM071921 London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic
5-11 Mar 86 p 8

[Unattributed report: "Inter-Palestinian Tension Eased Following Reconciliation Meeting in Prague"]

[Text] A Palestinian official source has told *AL-MAJALLAH* that the Prague meeting between the Fatah movement leadership represented by Central Committee member Khalil al-Wazir (Abu Jihad) and Salah Khalaf (Abu Iyad) and the Palestinian Democratic Alliance represented by DFLP Assistant Secretary General Yasir 'Abd Rabbuh, and Palestinian Communist Party

Politburo members Na'im al-Ashhab and Mazin al-Husayni have reached an agreement on specific steps with regard to the question of Palestinian national unity.

The source said that the steps agreed upon include:

First, acting in the occupied territories with the aim of strengthening the situation there to face up to the current developments.

Second, holding a series of Arab and international contacts to reaffirm the Rabat resolutions that provide that the PLO is the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

Third, pursuing the inter-Palestinian dialogue and requesting the Soviet Union to sponsor future steps toward a dialogue aimed at convening a Palestine National Council [PNC] meeting to be attended by the Palestinian factions.

Fourth, intensifying contacts with Damascus with a view to completing the steps taken earlier between Syria and the PLO to restore understanding and do away finally with the causes of the tense atmosphere of the past years.

Fifth, holding an early meeting to appraise what has been agreed and to take further new steps both on the inter-Palestinian level and the Syrian-Palestinian level.

With regard to the Palestinian delegation now in Moscow — where Yasir 'Arafat was expected to visit in a few days' time — the surprise was the presence of Talal Naji, assistant secretary general of the PFLP — GC and former PLO Executive Committee member, among members of the delegation which, in addition to Yasir 'Abd Rabbuh and leading members of the Palestinian Communist Party, included PFLP Assistant Secretary General Abu 'Ali Abu Mustafa.

In view of the fact that the PFLP and the PFLP are known for their hardline stand toward the PLO and dialogue with the Fatah leadership, the presence of key officials from these two organizations within a delegation headed by Faruq Qaddumi (Abu al-Lutf), chief of the PLO Political Department and secretary of the Fatah Central Committee, confirms that the restoration of Palestinian national unity has become a matter of time. It also indicates that Syria and Libya are not distant from these new Palestinian steps, in view of the close ties between those two organizations and both Damascus and Tripoli.

Revolutionary Heroes Attack Plant, Bus Stations

JN101905 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic
1715 GMT 10 Mar 86

[Text] A military spokesman for the Palestinian revolution forces general command has stated the following:

Our heroic revolutionaries in the occupied homeland continue their national task of pursuing the Zionist occupation forces and inflicting on them painful losses in implementation of the will of the revolution and the people to escalate armed struggle, our strategic option for obtaining all our legitimate rights. Our revolutionaries carried out the following operations during the past 48 hours:

1. In accordance with instructions, one of the martyr Abu Hasan Salamah combat groups succeeded in bypassing all enemy roadblocks yesterday and activated several explosive charges in the Chemical plants and laboratories of the Zionist army in the industrial zone in 'Afula in occupied Palestine. Fire broke out in our revolutionaries' targets, spreading to nearby plants and factories. Fire engines and enemy forces which rushed to the area failed to put out the fire and scores of factories, plants, and laboratories were destroyed and many employees were injured. Our combat group successfully left the area after completing the task with which it was entrusted.

2. One of our revolutionaries stabbed a Zionist soldier south of Tel Aviv, killing him. Our hero revolutionary safely withdrew from the area of operation and returned to base. A Zionist military spokesman admitted the operation, saying that the Zionist soldier died of his wounds.

3. One of our groups operating in the occupied homeland blew up a military building on Tel Aviv's Zikhron Ya'aqov Street, greatly damaging the building and seriously wounding many Zionists. The enemy radio admitted this explosion, but did not mention any casualties.

4. In occupied Jerusalem, our hero revolutionaries, using incendiary explosive charges, set a military bus station in the Rehavya quarter on fire. At the same time, our hero revolutionaries activated explosive charges in two other Zionist bus stations on Jaffa Street in occupied Jerusalem, greatly damaging the two stations and wounding several Zionist settlers and soldiers. Revolution until victory.

[Signed] The Palestinian revolution forces General Command

Soldier Attacked on King David Street

JN081830 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic
1715 GMT 8 Mar 86

[Text] A military spokesman for the Palestinian revolution forces general command has stated the following:

One of our revolutionaries from the Martyr 'Abdallah Siyam group operating inside the occupied homeland attacked an enemy soldier on King David Street in occupied Jerusalem at 1910 on 7 March. Our revolutionary used his personal weapon to kill the soldier. He seized the soldier's weapon and left the operation area successfully. Revolution until victory!

[Signed] The Palestinian revolution forces general command

The military spokesman also stated the following:

While one of our revolutionaries from the Martyr Halim group operating inside the occupied homeland was preparing to carry out his combat mission, one of the enemy intelligence personnel chased him in the (Migdal Barukh) quarter in Jerusalem. Our revolutionary stabbed and killed him at 1410 on 6 March and left the operation area successfully despite the arrest and search campaign the Zionist army forces carried out in the operation area. Revolution until victory!

[Signed] The Palestinian revolution forces general command

The military spokesman stated the following:

One of our revolutionaries from the Martyr Salamah al-Asmar group operating inside the occupied homeland chased and stabbed an enemy intelligence member in Beersheba at 2115 on 6 March. The intelligence member was evacuated to a hospital. Our revolutionary returned safely to base. Revolution until victory!

[Signed] The Palestinian revolution forces general command

Joint Forces Attack in South Lebanon

JN071820 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic
1715 GMT 7 Mar 86

[Text] The Palestinian-national Lebanese joint forces used machineguns, rockets, and hand grenades to attack a concentration of Zionist military hardware at dawn yesterday inside what the Zionist occupation forces call the security belt in southern Lebanon. Several Zionist military vehicles were destroyed or damaged and a number of Zionist soldiers were killed or wounded.

Briefs: Inter-Arab

New East Jerusalem Paper — Occupied Jerusalem (r) - A new Arabic-language Palestinian newspaper appeared in East Jerusalem Friday [8 March] and its first editorials indicated it would follow a moderate line. *AL-NAHAR* is due to become the fifth daily aimed at Palestinians living in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip but will be published weekly during an initial period. The newspaper, a 24-page tabloid, is published by businessman 'Uthman Hallaq, who will be editor-in-chief. He told *THE JERUSALEM POST* newspaper that the paper would reflect the views of the "silent majority" of Palestinians supporting peace. [Text] [Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 8 Mar 86 p 2 JN]

BAHRAIN

Foreign Minister Interviewed on Iran-Iraq War, Oil

PM101509 London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 5-11 Mar 86 p 17

[Interview with Bahrain Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad ibn Mubarak Al-Khalifah by *AL-MAJALLAH* correspondent in Bahrain; date not given]

[Excerpts] Question: Throughout last week Bahrain was the center of activity. It was visited by the Algerian foreign minister and the Iranian foreign under secretary. What was the nature of these two visits?

Answer: Algerian Foreign Minister Ahmad Talib Ibrahimi's visit was within the framework of the continuing coordination between the state of Bahrain and the Arab brothers. Algeria has been and is still trying to play a role in ending this [Iraq-Iran] war. It is continuing to do so. The visit was aimed at learning the views of Bahrain and the Gulf countries regarding the recent developments. Bahrain had expressed its great concern over the recent escalation and the offensive on the territory of sisterly Iraq. The expansion of the war has given it a new dimension; its purpose is to affect shipping and the security situation in the area. For this reason we hope that the Algerian envoy's visit will give him a clearer view of the situation so that Algeria will continue with its good offices.

With regard to the Iranian envoy's visit, it was for a specific purpose. He has been sent by three countries — Libya, Algeria, and Iran — to discuss an oil matter related to oil prices. They suggest holding a meeting in Geneva on 6 April between the OPEC countries and oil-producing countries outside OPEC, to lay down a new strategy to combat the deterioration in oil prices. With regard to the Iranian stand on the war, no change has been observed in it.

Question: Do we understand from this that you did not discuss the question of the war and the recent Iranian offensive with the Iranian envoy?

Answer: We certainly discussed the matter with him. We cannot ignore a vital and basic issue. We do not think that the energy crisis takes precedence over the issues of the Iraq-Iran war, which is the greatest threat facing the area. There is no doubt that the energy crisis is serious, but the war is the biggest of all the crises in the area. We believe that resolving this problem is a matter that concerns the Gulf states more than anybody else, whereas the question of oil is an international matter concerning both producing and consumer countries as well as other countries. Therefore, the Gulf states and the Arab and Islamic states should combine efforts in order to resolve the question of the war.

Question: Certain observers have linked the recent Iranian military move to the oil question. What is your view on this matter?

Answer: I do not think that this issue has anything to do with the question of the war. The war has been going on for 6 years, while the question of oil is a different matter. Although the question of oil concerns the sovereignty of each country separately, coordination on this matter is in the interest of all and calls for joining efforts and unifying views. The reasons for and the circumstances of the war are quite a different matter.

Question: What was the GCC countries' response to the Iranian reassurances given to them regarding the war?

Answer: Our stand is clear and declared. We are against the war and are seeking to end it. We do not accept aggression against the Iraqi borders. Iraq is an Arab country, and everybody is committed to an Arab stand when any Arab country is the target of aggression. We wish that Iran would revise its attitude of resolving disputes by force and instead resort to solving them through negotiations among brothers. We do not think that it is in the interest of Iraq or Iran or the countries of the area for the war to continue. We all are the losers, and the common enemy is the only winner. We have always urged that the war should end and that negotiations and a cease-fire should begin. We call for respect for international borders and for withdrawal. We do not wish the war to expand; rather we want to see it end. We have declared these principles time and time again at our meetings. I believe that Iran is aware of this stand, as are the other countries of the world. We are willing to help at any moment and have sent out delegations for this purpose.

KUWAIT

Tanzanian Energy Minister Arrives 9 Mar

LD092045 Kuwait KUNA in English 1900 GMT 9 Mar 86

[Text] Kuwait, March 9 (KUNA) — Tanzanian Energy Minister Qassem Annour [post and name as received] and the accompanying delegation arrived here Sunday on a short visit to Kuwait.

He told KUNA on arrival that he will hold talks with Oil and Industry Minister Shaykh 'Ali al-Khalifah al-Adhbi dealing with means of developing bilateral oil relations.

The Tanzanian minister stressed that the oil prices are witnessing a complicated situation and hoped that the oil price slash would not affect progress of the Third World countries and called in this respect for exploring for other sources of energy.

The guests were received on arrival by the Kuwait Petroleum Corporation's managing director of marketing and a number of KPC officials.

OMAN

Foreign Minister Returns From Visit to Pakistan

GF101736 Manama WAKH in English 1550 GMT 10 Mar 86

[Text] Muscat, 10 Mar (WAKH) — Omani state minister for foreign affairs returned home today after a two-day visit to Pakistan.

In an arrival statement, Yusuf sl-'Alawi 'Abdallah, who is also the current chairman of the GCC Ministerial Council, said that he met with Pakistani President Mohammad Ziaul Haq and his Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo and explained to them views of GCC states concerning recent developments in the region.

The Omani minister's visit to Pakistan comes within the framework of diplomatic move announced by the GCC states in their recent ministerial meeting to brief their brotherly and friendly [as received] on dangers facing the region in the light of recent escalation states in the Iraq-Iran war.

Papers on Peace Process, Murphy's Middle East Tour

GF080826 Muscat ONA in Arabic 0720 GMT 8 Mar 86

[From the press review]

[Text] Muscat, 8 Mar (ONA) — Commenting on the new moves to activate the peace process in the Middle East and the tour U.S. envoy Richard Murphy will make to the region, the newspaper *'UMAN* says in its editorial today: Murphy's tour coincides with other international efforts to break the stagnancy in the process to establish a peaceful and just settlement in the region.

The newspaper notes the announcement that the Netherlands foreign minister will visit Jordan to hold political contacts with the parties of the conflict in the Middle East as the Netherlands is chairing the current EEC session.

AL-WATAN states that efforts by two international parties which have a role and influence on the course of developments toward peace will be viewed as a necessary move required to break the stagnancy in the Middle East peace process.

It indicates that the EEC has long been asked to make an efficient and strong contribution toward activating peace efforts to achieve a comprehensive settlement and peace and stability in the region.

PDRY

Journalist Reportedly Dies From Torture in Aden

NC101757 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1658 GMT 10 Mar 86

[Text] Djibouti, 10 Mar (MENA) — Reports from Aden confirm that Zaki Barakat has been killed. He was a writer, poet, member of the Central Committee of the Yemen Socialist Party, editor-in-chief of the *AL-THAWRI* newspaper, chairman of the Yemen Journalists Organization, and member of the union of Yemen men of letters and writers.

A reliable source has reported that Barakat died as a result of the savage torture he was subjected to in Aden detention camps. This same source also said that the authorities in Aden have appointed an Army officer to be the new editor-in-chief of *AL-THAWRI.*

SAUDI ARABIA

King Chairs Cabinet Session, Discusses Budget

GF101728 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1540 GMT 10 Mar 86

[Text] Riyadh, 10 Mar (SPA) — His Majesty King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz chaired the Cabinet session which was held today, Monday.

At the beginning of this session his majesty the king, God save him, addressed a detailed and valuable speech to the citizens. The following is the text of the speech:

Praise be to God. Prayers and peace be upon the prophet and his scion.

O brother citizens, peace, God's prayers, and blessings be upon you.

Since I am accustomed to addressing you at this time each year and since you are accustomed during my meetings with you to clarity and frankness and credibility, and out of my concern and my vast responsibilities toward the dear homeland and toward each individual among you, I speak to you during the most delicate circumstances that are surrounding us. No doubt, O brothers, you are aware that the world today is passing through serious economic crises which vary from one country to another and in nature and cause. Even though our resources have been affected a lot by these crises, we, by God's grace and help, are still enjoying good grace and living.

O brothers, I have always believed that the national wealth, whether it is on the land or under the ground, should be used to serve the homeland and the citizens, if this wealth is loyal to the role which has been assigned by the Almighty God. I have always believed and I still believe that God has given the Kingdom an opportunity which is unique in the history of nations. This opportunity must not be missed by men who have been assigned by God to serve their religion and the people of this country, which has served Islam and the Muslims since the beginning of its history.

Certainly, the achievements which the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has made during the past development plans have been great by all standards. This fact is not something which we, the sons of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, are bragging about, but it is a testimony which we hear at every international assembly, where credibility is tested. The people of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia do not need anyone to remind them of God's blessings upon them. They enjoy these blessings in their strength, homes, schools, sanatoriums, and in their security and prosperity.

Proclaiming the blessings of the Almighty God is a way of thanking God. Who could believe that a desert country like ours today produces about 1.7 million tons of wheat and 436,000 tons of dairy products, besides its production of meat, fruits, vegetables, and dates?

The Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has made efforts with its people in a short period to build 26 desalination stations which produce 500 million gallons of sweet water per day and which reach the heart of the desert and the peaks of the mountains. There have been 160 dams erected, 1,800 factories constructed, and 1.3 million telephone lines installed. Also, more than 30,000 km of asphalt roads and more than 48,000 km of rural roads have been constructed.

The products of our factories in Al-Jubayl and Yunbu' are being marketed throughout the country proving that the people of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabi are capable people whose determination knows no weakness and who are not afraid of the future.

O brothers, more than 2.1 million students study at our schools and universities today and about 15,000 doctors work at our hospitals which hold more than 28,000 beds.

The Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has found the means for every individual who desires to raise his standard of living or to improve his future opportunities. The government has provided loans to build houses, and more than 400,000 housing units have been constructed at a cost of more than 6.7 billion riyals. The government has also granted loans to construct factories and set up projects — 892 industrial projects worth more than 1.3 billion riyals have been set up. The government has also granted farm loans, with 320,000 people making use of more than 1.9 million riyals. The government has also granted loans in various fields, the total of which so far has reached more than 207 billion riyals [figure as received].

The Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has been trying to achieve the comfort of its citizens, and thus has provided them with free education and medical treatment. It also provides water, electricity, transportation, and communications services with prices that are very low compared to their cost. The government has also protected the citizens against the fluctuation of international prices of food, clothing, and medicine by putting forward a special system for subsidies that deals with the circumstances of the international market.

Brothers, I do not say what I have said to remind you of a favor but as a kind of tribute and gratitude. Despite the continued deterioration in the oil market which contributed to the industrial world's inability to overcome its economic crisis, and despite the entry of additional oil producers into the market, and despite the failure of OPEC members to adhere to the production quotas and prices — which has led to the fall in prices from about $34 per barrel to less than $15 per barrel, and to the fall in our production from about 10 million bpd to less than 2 million bpd at times — and despite the prevailing conditions in the world that level local repercussions on our country's economy which make it necessary for the Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to adopt the appropriate measures with regard to the annual budget and the expenditure program as is necessary in such circumstances, I have directed the Council of Ministers to maintain all the existing programs that were designed to safeguard the citizen's prosperity and which deal with the citizen's income. They have also been directed to maintain the fees that the citizen pays and the loan services he receives — and I have given examples of such services — at their present level without any alteration.

I am confident, brothers, that the citizen in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is determined to confront the present situation with faith and courage. I am confident of his ability to join hands with us in such circumstances to spare our country the bad effects of what is happening in the world oil market. The people of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia have in the past experienced circumstances that were much worse than what is happening in the oil market nowadays and overcame those circumstances with unparalleled success.

You brother citizens appreciate that in such circumstances your government takes the necessary measures to protect the country's economy from what others are doing to the oil market. It is the policy of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, which is based on the implementation of development programs that have predetermined objectives and on pursuing a balanced financial policy and on the citizens' participation in the development programs, which has brought the country to the prestigious position it occupies among advanced states in such a short time.

Our efforts to improve the situation will not be confined to the domestic level but will go beyond that: We will cooperate with oil exporting countries within and outside OPEC so as to bring the oil trade back to the path of reason and restraint.

Brothers, in light of what I have said, the Council of Ministers has studied these circumstances and what decisions should be made. Tonight it will issue a statement stating that the budget for the current year 1405-06 Hegira [1985-86] will continue to be in force until a later time, and until the Council of Ministers reassesses the situation during the next 5 months, God willing.

Brothers, as it announces this decision the state hopes that every citizen will be fully aware of the critical circumstances in the region and which the dear homeland is experiencing. We expect all citizens to redouble their efforts in the various fields of close joint cooperation, and to make more of the fruitful and constructive contributions to which we are accustomed, with every citizen in his position and sector of work carrying out his duties and responsibilities toward his religion and homeland.

We ask Almighty God to grant us success in preserving our faith and to perpetuate his blessings, both overt and covert, upon us. Peace and God's mercy and blessings be upon you.

Cabinet Issues Statement

GF101855 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 10 Mar 86

["Text" of statement issued by the Cabinet during its session in 10 March 1986 — read by announcer]

[Text] For the past few months the Cabinet has followed with concern the developments which have taken place in the international oil market due to the fact that oil on the international market has exceeded demand leading to a subsequent drop in oil prices. The Cabinet has also been continuously following the effect of these developments on the state's oil revenues and consequently on its expenses and what the government can do to increase these revenues. The continued oil surplus on the international market, which has resulted due to some oil-producing countries increasing their production, has led to a continued drop in oil prices. Prices on the market have dropped by more than half over the past 6 months. Amid these circumstances, and because the state's fiscal year 1405-06 Hegira [1985-86] is drawing to a close, the Cabinet recently assessed the current oil market situation in order to estimate the revenues in the new fiscal year 1406-07 Hegira [1986-87] because oil revenues will be about 68 percent of the state's total actual revenues. It was very difficult for the Cabinet to predict what the state's oil revenues would be during the next period, and also difficult to estimate exact expenses. The Cabinet has noticed the increasing importance of arranging the state's expenses in a way that is in line with the dates of payments of oil revenues. As a result, the Cabinet has found it necessary to adjust the time for issuing the state's general budget to harmonize with lunar changes in a fixed way. Because Article 37 of the Cabinet law issued under Royal Decree 38 dated 22/10/1377 Hegira [1957] provides for postponing the issuance of the state's general budget when extraordinary reasons require this — provided that budget of the previous year should be extended proportionately by one-twelfth until the new budget is issued, it has been decided that the budget for the current fiscal year 1405-06 Hegira [1985-86] will continue in force until a later time. The Council of Ministers will reassess the situation in the next 5 months. The Council of Ministers announces this to citizens and wishes to make it clear that the directives of his majesty the king to the council provide for drawing up the regulations for expenditure in the next months in accordance with the following rules:

1. The provisions for monthly and annual salaries, remunerations, and allowances will continue to be in force in accordance with the regulations and payment periods enforced in the current fiscal year.

2. The provisions for the expenditure on local subsidies approved in the current budget — such as the agricultural subsidy, the food subsidy, the fodder subsidy, social welfare assistance, and similar aid — will continue in force.

3. The funds for agricultural, estate, and industrial loans will continue to operate as they are operating at present without any changes in the relevant rules.

4. Expenditure on projects and work contracts — and there are at present 6,435 work contracts in force — will continue. Expenditure on such contracts amounts to about 6 billion riyals monthly.

5. All other monies due to national or foreign companies or to individuals will be paid up when due.

Information Minister on Meeting

GF101934 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1825 GMT 10 Mar 86

[Excerpts] Riyadh, 10 Mar (SPA) — His Majesty King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz chaired the Cabinet session which was held today, Monday.

After the king's noble speech, the information minister said: The Cabinet listened to a comprehensive analysis from the king of all current political, economic, and security levels.

His majesty explained to the Cabinet the purpose of issuing an explanatory statement, which was declared by the Royal Court last night, on the clear and stable stance of Saudi Arabia regarding the existing conflict in the international oil market and the positive reaction of Western and Arab news media to this statement. In this regard, his majesty said: Despite the differences of opinion among OPEC member states and certain unfair statements on the truth of the Kingdom's stance and its great sacrifices in the past and at present in order to maintain the stability of the balances and shares set by OPEC, I still endeavor to bring views closer together and resolve differences in order to straighten matters out and to realize the common interests of all.

The information minister added: In his anaylsis his majesty also referred to the stance of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on the strange threats broadcast by the information media of certain countries against the Gulf region, and consequently against the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. His majesty said: We always advocate security and peace and we always endeavor to patch up differences and make continuous, honest efforts for stability in this region. This is known by all. My hope is that this will be the goal of all countries. While we have been tested in our creed and homeland, the government and people of this country have pledged to God to sacrifice their souls for the sake of their religion and homeland until the last drop of their blood. We pray to God to make His word lofty, to safeguard our religion, and support us against the unjust and aggressors.

AL-YAWM on Murphy's Latest Middle East Trip

GF101600 Al-Dammam AL-YAWM in Arabic 9 Mar 86 p 7

["Political Opinion" column by Ibrahim 'Abd al-Latif: "Murphy and His Shuttle Tours"]

[Excerpts] Murphy has resumed his shuttle trips in the Middle East. Today he arrives in Cairo at the start of a new tour of Middle East countries in order to learn, as he says, the views of officials in these countries on peace in the Middle East. At the same time, he carries the U.S. Administration's new proposals to these officials.

Murphy's tours are not strange to us. We are accustomed to such tours. What is strange about this tour is its timing. Murphy is beginning this tour at a time when the Arabs are preoccupied with the events taking place around them. If we review the Arab situation from the ocean to the Gulf, we will not find one country without problems preoccupying it.

The question is: Has Murphy come to exert new pressures to gain acceptance of amended U.S. proposals especially at a time when we, the Arabs, are in a state of fragmentation that makes us accept any proposals presented to us? Has he come with new proposals? I believe that Murphy is not carrying any new proposals with him, but rather has come to promote previous ones which the Arabs rejected when they were in a better situation than they are now. He comes when the Arabs are divided so that they might accept whatever is presented to them.

Murphy has come to market his old proposals as well as to give aid to the Zionist government while we are preoccupied with events around us.

If we intend to resolve our basic issue — the Palestinian cause — we must begin by resolving our ephemeral problems and devote ourselves to the basic issue. Murphy will not resolve our problems. On the contrary, he has come to terminate the Palestinian issue and to assure the enemy that the United States will not recognize the PLO. We must unite to confront this and compel the United States to recognize the PLO.

Murphy has come to the Middle East at a time when we are fragmented and divided. We must not trust U.S. credibility which we tried before. We must reject any proposals, no matter how tempting they look, until we unite our ranks. Then we can discuss what is presented to us and not lose our basic issue.

UAE

Papers Question Murphy's Next Mideast Tour

GF080803 Abu Dhabi WAM in Arabic 0630 GMT 8 Mar 86

[From the press review]

[Excerpts] Abu Dhabi, 8 Mar (WAM) — In their editorial today, the newspapers *AL-ITTIHAD* and *AL-FAJR* comment on the new U.S. move in the Middle East. *AL-ITTIHAD* wonders whether Richard Murphy will succeed this time in doing what he has failed to do in the past, while *AL-FAJR* casts doubts on the credibility of the U.S. move.

AL-ITTIHAD says: The announcement of the visit by Richard Murphy to three Arab countries and to the Zionist entity came amid noticeable changes the region witnessed over the past few days which affect the Arab-Zionist conflict.

AL-ITTIHAD expresses the belief that the halt in the joint Palestinian-Jordanian move was the strongest reason to make Washington decide to finally exclude the PLO from the settlement game and to apply the Israeli autonomy rule in the occupied territories. "But in Washington's view this positive development was quickly obstructed by the assassination of Nabulus Mayor Zafir al-Masri, which made the so-called moderate Palestinian personalities withdraw from the game and refrain from joining the autonomy rule plot and made the Palestinian masses take to the streets to express support for the PLO as the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people."

AL-ITTIHAD wonders if Murphy will succeed in reviving U.S. efforts to make a Jordanian-Palestinian move without the PLO, and with Egypt's support. This is what he has failed to do in the past.

The newspaper *AL-FAJR* describes the new U.S. move as a move around which more than one question and doubt can be raised. Discussing this, the newspaper notes the timing and the nature of the move. The announcement of this mission came when the region is living through the most difficult of times and the most acute of crises, beginning with the new escalation in the Gulf war and the serious repercussions of this escalation, and including the collapse of the Jordanian-Palestinian talks and the exacerbation of the situation in the occupied territories and southern Lebanon, and the serious developments in Egypt, the newspaper says.

The newspaper notes the secrecy the White House has imposed on the move. It was disclosed in a report from Cairo that Murphy would not make a new initiative and that his mission would be for the exchange of views on peace prospects in the Middle East.

Mubarak Addresses People's Assembly on Cairo Riots

NC081140 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic
0900 GMT 8 Mar 86

[Speech by Egyptian President Husni Mubarak to a joint session of the People's Assembly and the Consultative Council in Cairo — live]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Brothers and sisters, members of the People's Assembly and the Consultative Council. I have called for this meeting at the house of the people to confirm a constitutional principle, namely that the people's representatives have the right to be kept fully informed about the recent events that the masses, and you at their forefront, have seen and followed in the past 2 weeks. I have also called for this meeting in accordance with a democratic principle to which the government has adhered, namely, that all facts should be explained to the people. This is because the people are absolutely entitled to have a clear picture of all events affecting the country's march, including the details and particulars of these events. The people are masters of their destiny and dignity and have the final say. There is no government except in the name of the people and in the interest of the people. [applause]

In the statement that I broadcast to the citizens following the outbreak of these regrettable and painful incidents, I described how the acts of sabotage began on Tuesday evening, 25 February. They were sparked off by groundless rumors spread among the ranks of conscripts attached to the security forces camp in Al-Jizah, at the beginning of the Cairo-Alexandria desert highway.

These rumors alleged that it had been decided to extend the police conscripts' period of service by 1 year. On the basis of these rumors, certain subversive elements began to incite the soldiers at the camp and inflame their feelings. Large groups of soldiers then went to the main road. They committed several acts of violence and destruction, causing damage to many cars and setting fire to three hotels and other tourist installations near the camp. Further acts of sabotage then took place, including the destruction of a number of public and transportation facilities. Some of the security guards posted at these installations were killed or wounded.

The following day, similar incidents occurred in Cairo, Al-Jizah, Al-Qalyubiyah, Asyut, Suhaj, and the Ismailia road. These resulted in the destruction and burning of many cars, buses, and metro carriages. The sabotage went further and included a rice silo in Asyut and another silo in Suhaj. The gates of the Turah prison were opened and a number of prisoners were let loose.

Some disreputable and criminal elements seized the opportunity to indulge in looting, stealing, and sabotage in certain touristic sites in the Pyramids area. However, they were a handful of outlaws. They cannot besmirch the image of this great people who have condemned their crimes, denounced their behavior, and isolated them from their ranks and march.

In a very short time, the situation was completely brought under control. Special units of the Armed Forces [applause] took over all the positions where these criminal acts had started, and the rioters and those who were behind them were arrested.

The public prosecutors have begun their investigations into these crimes. They have already made great progress in their task, despite the great number of defendants and despite their concern to examine every aspects of the issue. The purpose of these investigations is to punish the culprits and uncover all the dimensions of the plan, and to analyze the circumstances that spawned this grave phenomenon, which must not occur again in any establishment or popular gathering.

I do not want to anticipate events or make specific statements on the progress of the investigations. I leave this to the competent judicial authorities. The courts are sacred and inviolable. The way that investigations and trials are carried out is governed by certain rules. It is impermissible to depart from these rules, no matter how much we desire to obtain answers to the questions occupying our minds and attention these days.

I urge all institutions of the state, and above all the People's Assembly and the Consultative Council, to postpone discussing this issue until the investigations are over and the judicial authorities have had their say.

For my part, I have been eager to ensure that the public prosecution is given every opportunity to get to the bottom of the issue and identify its real roots and causes. The prosecution will not stop short at the superficial symptoms, the complications and sad results of which we have seen.

I was also anxious that the matter should be dealt with by the public prosecution, although there were grounds for referring it to other quarters. Moreover, the state has not resorted to any extraordinary measures, but has insisted on handling the situation within the framework of the supremacy of the law, in accordance with the principles of the law, and without jeopardizing the rights of individuals or their legal status.

Every citizen must rest assured that once the investigations are over and have succeeded in uncovering all aspects of the issue, we will not hid anything from him or conceal any of the facts. We all realize that it is in the national interest for the investigations to continue free from outside influence and in an atmosphere that will ensure their success.

You may be sure that the investigations will examine every aspect of the issue. We are not interested only in the criminal implications that will determine the legal status of the defendants, but will also look into the matter from the social, psychological, and mental viewpoints.

We will not hesitate to bring anyone to account for any mistake or deficiency. We are also very interested in making sure that nothing of this sort will happen again in the future because a stable Egypt is the sublime objective to which we are giving a high priority in our work and efforts, and for which we are going through so much pain. I have great hope that your dealing with this issue, even after the conclusion of investigations, will be guided by the correct realization of its nature, and consideration for its sensitivity and its links with the homeland's supreme interests.

We put these considerations above any others. This makes it imperative on us all that we try to deal carefully with this issue, because it differs radically from everyday events. These incidents should be the subject of expanded discussion, argument, and debate. I am fully convinced that the legislators will take these matters into consideration when debating this issue at any stage, and that they will define the extent of the debate in light of the supreme national interest.

It is good to focus in our talk today on the significant aspects of what happened and on the lessons learned, and to shed some light on the present course, which is our path to the future.

The first significant aspect of what happened is that the Egyptian people — all groups, sects, and ages — faced a terrible test. These same people faced this terrible test with genuine wisdom, supreme courage, and a sincere attachment to the land and the sacred soil. The people's wisdom manifested itself when they gave proof that they had not for a moment lost their senses; that they placed these ugly crimes in a true perspective; that they had not been deceived by the declared reasons, motives, and causes for these crimes; and that they had not accepted excuses for all this. The people's courage was evident in the fact that they were not perturbed and did not lose confidence in their government's capability restore things to normal; that they were able to resist and crush any mutiny, plot, or insubordination at the height of danger; and that they could protect the citizens' lives, property, and rights. Hence, the popular response to our decisive measures was splendid. The citizens' cooperation in suppressing this treacherous dissidence was a splendid cultural response imbued with supreme courage.

The faithful popular attachment to the land and soil was evident when all the hands, hearts, and voices hoisted Egypt's flag above everything else and made their Egyptian affiliation their primary weapon. They stood proud while following events with hearts faithful to god and to the homeland. The belief in Egypt, its stability and the sweat it expends for the sake of development, reconstruction, and building, was the protective shield that reassured hearts and souls. Hence, it was not surprising that the media told the people all the facts hour after hour; it was not surprising for these truthful disclosures to arouse feelings of denunciation and contempt in every Egyptian man and woman; in every house, small or large; from the north to the south of Egypt.

Thus, national unity in Egypt revealed its strength and solidity. Millions of Egyptian men and women stood as one rank, joined hands, and unanimously rejected any tampering with resources, condemned the crimes of treason, and called for decisive and firm punishment, without mercy or leniency.

This sacred national unity has been our weapon and shield in every stage of our development and in all our battles for freedom and independence and for the liberation of our land from the invaders and imperialists. This sacred national unity has been the light that dispelled the darkness during the people's revolution of 1919. It constituted the protection, support, and blessing of the vanguard of the Egyptian Armed Forces when the 23 July revolution broke out. [applause] This sacred national unity has enabled political and social democracy to take root and serve as the foundation of government, honor the humanity of mankind, and perpetuate man's right to free expression and self-government, by the exercise of his own independent will and without subserviency. Egypt belongs to all Egyptians. It is sovereign and is master of its own destiny. [applause]

This sacred national unity was the solid, impenetrable wall that stood behind our Armed Forces in our most honorable battles in the immortal October war. [applause] This war liberated the land and enabled the Arab nation to hold its head high among the nations of the world at a time when both friend and foe thought that it was defunct. Our brave Armed Forces, however, responded to this major test of their will and ability with complete bravery and readiness for sacrifice. They registered a new chapter in the history of the Egyptian struggle and prepared the way for the establishment of comprehensive peace in the area.

I address sincere greetings to the noble Egyptian people. At the same time, I am overwhelmed by pride at being a son of this people [applause], a citizen among the millions of citizens, who was given the trust of responsibility by the people's free voice. I pledged myself before Almighty God and took the constitutional oath before the people to safeguard that trust to the last drop of my blood.[applause]

I address my sincere greetings to our Armed Forces [applause], who responded to the call and who performed their national duty in every respect and in an honorable way that has pleased all Egyptians. This performance was illustrated by the professional manner in which the sound plans of the Armed Forces were implemented within a few hours. They were able to isolate the acts of recklessness, sabotage, and rioting. All this took place in splended cohesion with the sons of the people. In this way, the Armed Forces have confirmed that they are the strength and backbone of the people, defending their values, sanctity, and accomplishments. I hereby address my sincere greetings to the Armed Forces. I address these greetings on behalf of the people as an expression of their most profound appreciation and gratitude [applause] to the Armed Forces, who are their shield in war and peace.

Brothers and sisters: What a few misled deviationist groups of the Central Security Forces and some outlaws have done should not affect our appreciation for the overwhelming majority of these forces. [applause] The personnel comprising this majority refused to take part in the acts of rioting and sabotage, and continued to perform their important tasks vigilantly and sincerely.

These events should not make us forget that the Egyptian police force is one of the institutions we admire. [applause] The police play a large role in ensuring security throughout the country, in defending public funds, in purging society of corruption, and in protecting the citizens' safety, property, and installations, thus sacrificing their lives in defense of Egypt and its devout people. Therefore, we extend all our appreciation and admiration to them. [applause]

We also wish to highlight the coordination and cooperation demonstrated between the police forces and Armed Forces during the bloody events. This constituted a splended national example of the way in which the pan-Arab responsibility can be fulfilled in all its aspects.

An objective view of recent events dictates the realization that the security forces and the Central Security Forces are performing their duty amid difficult living conditions. It is our duty to prepare better conditions for them, regardless of the fact that a few of them have resorted to such an objectionable criminal method. Therefore, I have instructed the Interior Ministry to take specific steps to improve their living conditions and to take care of their social, moral, and educational needs.

Every Egyptian joins me in addressing greetings to our noble workers and peasants [applause] who are the heroes of the production battle. They have demonstrated unmeasurable heroism at a difficult time. Millions of them responded to their consciences and acted with complete self-denial. They took it upon themselves to keep the wheels of production turning everywhere, and under the most difficult conditions. They worked night and day, setting new standards for dedication and sacrifice.

Greetings to the admirable young men of Egypt [applause] who swiftly volunteered to clear up the damage caused by the saboteurs. Work is already underway in the areas where the riots took place. Young voluntary workers will help remove the rubble and reconstruct the hotels destroyed in the sabotage. This is further evidence that our young people are living up to the expectations of their country and the standards of their civilization. Our young men have proved that they deserve to represent Egypt and carry its banner, and that they are capable of charting the future of this blessed country.

Brothers and sisters, having discussed the significance of the recent incidents, I would like to state that the significance of the whole episode should not be underestimated. Together we must look at all aspects of the situation. It is the policy of the Egyptian Government not to work in the dark. Our policy is founded on four principles:

The first of these principles is true democracy [applause], a democracy in which every Egyptian can take part in national decision making. This is provided for in the Constitution. We have never attempted to tamper with the substance of democracy, retaining only its facade. The kernel of democracy is a true respect for the freedom of expression. This means that the channels of expression should remain open to all citizens and that the traditions of the multi-party system and of free dialogue should be upheld.

The second principle on which our policy is based is honesty; we do not flinch from letting people know the hard facts of a situation. This country belongs to all of us and we are all in the same boat. This government is working for the people and to lighten the burdens of the lower-income groups. Therefore, it has no reason to conceal the truth or to misrepresent a reality that we are all aware of. We have never tried to paint a rosy picture or resort to temporary sedatives. We have never engaged in the kind of flamboyant politics designed to distract the people from their problems and from the challenges they have to face.

The third principle is the purity of government. No one, however skilled he may be in incrimination and allegation, can claim that we have tried to hide any shortcomings, that we have shielded corruption, or that we have encouraged illegal wealth at the people's expense. This fact, about which no two people disagree, is underlined by a judiciary that holds a sacred place in society. This judiciary fulfills a noble mission and an important service to the homeland and its citizens.

The fourth principle is the need to tackle the economic crisis through study and planned scientific methods that seek to safeguard the future, as well as deal with current problems. These methods must be based on a realistic and honest view that focuses its attention on increasing production, rationalizing expenditure, narrowing the gap between exports and imports, encouraging investment, finding new work opportunities, providing safeguards and guarantees for all private and public funds, dealing with a shortage of income brought about by international factors, ensuring full respect for Egypt's reputation, fulfilling foreign commitments, and relying on internally inspired solutions that will gradually wean us away from a dependence on aid and loans and lead to successful steps resulting in self-sufficiency in food, clothing, and drink.

We are nearing the completion of our first 5-year plan. Positive and tangible results have been achieved, although perhaps some people could not see them in the light of other increasing problems. However, the fact remains that we have defined our goals and priorities and have begun to move in the right direction. We have no choice but to exert additional efforts and sweat for the sake of beloved Egypt. We must continue the process of national action in all areas irrespective of the sacrifices.

We have placed our dependence on these principles in the firm belief that nothing will build democratic Egypt except the hands of Egyptians. We are all aware that we live in a region that is raging with internal and external conflicts, and that Arab disorder has reached a lamentable state. It is a fact that our Arab forces possess all the prerequisites for progress and for economic and social development. However, funds and efforts are being wasted on artificial wars, narrow regional quarrels, and tribal fighting that depletes a nation's strength. Nevertheless, Egypt continues to shoulder its burdens alone, surrounded by malicious and silent spectators, by those who incite and plot, and by those who are ignorant or indifferent to the terrible fate of the Arab nation that daily loses many of the cornerstones of its existence as an entity in the world.

We are suffering from all this, and we are dealing with it. However, certain spiteful minds, and I say it with deep regret, do not want to see us with our feet planted firmly on solid ground or moving our economy ahead in the right direction despite the difficulties and challenges we face. Some people are even upset by our success, which is accompanied by superhuman efforts and all the fortitude and ability we can muster. They are also upset at the fact that our strong and steadfast people are proceeding along the road of construction while enjoying their rights and democracy without repression or infringement up on human dignity.

Thus, the smell of suspicious, ill-intentioned schemes arose. There is much evidence of this. There are those who have publicly voiced their desire to strike at Egypt's economy and to deprive it of its foreign exchange. Thus, the services of a number of Egyptians working abroad have been terminated. There are certain Arab radios and newspapers that constantly disparage Egypt, and describe it as chaotic, corrupt, and dissolute. They exploit any minor domestic incident and built it up as though it were the most serious threat to the fabric and system of our society. They are always agitating to spread chaos and encourage sabotage.

We have not allowed ourselves to interfere in the internal affairs of any Arab country. We have never wanted to answer these lies — and we have many, many facts — for we still believe that the rallying of the Arabs is far more noble than the vituperations that the Arab nation has lived with for generations. It was only natural that this abuse would result in the recent fragmentation, dispersion, and splintering.

Despite all this, as soon as the recent events occurred, these venomous radios began to spread stories that expressed the worst of intentions. Some tried to make it seem that Egypt had turned into an arena for a popular revolution or a civil war, that everything had collapsed, and that the entire country was ripe for destruction and desolation.

We thank God that Egypt's media played their part in the best possible way [applause] by reporting all the facts from the scene of the incidents themselves without any cover-up, falsification, or exaggeration. Thus, people in side and outside the Arab world tuned in Egypt's voice, its press and its audio and visual media, with all respect. This is the sound role and course of action required from the media everywhere, for we believe that frankness and the full disclosure of facts are necessary ingredients for popular participation. Our people have an awareness that is the envy of many other nations. Our people are capable of understanding every position and of paying the price of their struggle if they have been treated on the basis of trust, respect, and honesty.

Even though I am not inclined to talk about a certain Arab capital, yet I find myself compelled to address dear friend Hafiz al-Asad, president of fraternal Syria. I thank him for his kind words in a political speech he delivered a few days ago in which he praised my nationalism and Arabism, and lauded old personal ties. I am as proud of these ties as he is. But, I tell him sincerely and with a sense of pan-Arab responsibility that his talk about Egypt's internal affairs was not right. I and the entire Egyptian people were surprised that the Syrian president portrayed recent events as tumultuous popular opposition to the Camp David agreement.

I tell him very sincerely that this talk is unacceptable, unacceptable to all Egyptians [applause], and that this is far removed from the way we feel and think. Yes, I tell him: Egypt has liberated its occupied territories. The Egyptian flag has been hoisted over the pure soil of Sinai. I beseech God to help my brother President Hafiz and his government to succeed in liberating the Golan and in withdrawing the Syrian armed forces from Lebanese territory so that the fraternal Lebanese people can regain their sovereignty and preserve their national entity and the independence of their will. [applause]

I do not want to elaborate and I will not allow myself to speak about internatl conditions in fraternal Syria, because a discussion of this subject would take too long. The fraternal Syrian people, with whom we have close and strong ties, are well aware that democratic Egypt, although suffering economically, will not resort to enticement or intimidation to improve its economy.

As a leading Arab country, Egypt will never relinquish its responsibility to side with any Arab state that is subject to armed attack. Egypt will never conspire against any Arab nation, nor will it ever tolerate Arab hands to spill Arab blood. I do not want to discuss the secret contacts between Damascus and other capitals. President Hafiz al-Asad is aware that we know of them and that I will not say more. [applause]

Concerning Libyan radio, we recently responded positively to efforts to end the opposing media campaigns of Egypt and Libya. Although the Libyan president had ordered the campaign to stop for a period, as soon as the recent incidents occurred sick voices began a stupid call for popular uprising in Egypt. These methods are childish and I do not even want to comment on them. [applause]

Brothers and sisters, having discussed the conditions in the Arab world and the suspect designs that are directed against us, I hardly need to warn that the black intentions are trying to penetrate our domestic front. We have evidence that there have been and continue tobe attempts against our home front. These intentions, which have been made public, are not mere rhetoric, but are purposeful. In addition, some other circles are working silently in the same wrong direction.

I have no doubt that the Egyptian domestic front is too solid to be penetrated by their poisoned arrows. I am certain that our steadfast country, which is focusing primarily on development and reconstruction, is too strong to be affected by reckless amateurs or juvenile politics. Our Arab people need unity and good intentions now, more than ever.

They have tried to fight us with rumors. I spoke earlier about the barrage of rumors they were circulating to spread uncertainty and to cause instability. But lies soon die, while truth lives forever. Their falsehoods and allegations were proven completely false.

To sum up, we are the target. Egypt's stability and prosperity are being made the target of numerous arrows from several directions. But the noble Egyptian people, who built the Pyramids, established a civilization that is the earliest known in history, built the High Dam, and waged four wars — when countries with greater capabilities and resources than ours were unwilling to face up to the implications and burdens of these wars — have managed to deflect the arrows and turn them against their enemies. The Egyptian people are determined to confront every plot with all courage and vigilance. They have resolved to bring about a national awakening that will forge ahead and never look back, will remove the debris and build anew, and will face all difficulties with wisdom, courage, and noble commitment.

Therefore, I urge Egyptian writers, both those who support us and those who do not, to take into consideration and account, while addressing the masses and public opinion, the reality of our society. The doors of criticism in Egypt are open and the atmosphere is healthy and pure for every opinion that favors Egypt. Our consciences and hearts welcome the exposure of any shortcomings. But all this depends on the basic commitment that is demanded by the supreme national interest, which is above every personal or party interest. This commitment requires us to abide by objective reality and avoid resorting to oneupmanship, which is harmful to the homeland. It also requires us not to deviate from the priorities that have been set by the people and constitute our national task at this stage in our history.

Brothers and sisters, I have promised you and myself that I will not accept any deviation from the right path. That form of political action that they call the political game I do not consider to be the right path. Some people believe that during economic crises we should resort to brilliant political planning to occupy the people with topics that are designed only to waste their time and distract their attention from their sufferings. This is what they mean when they talk about the political game. But you all know that I do not and I never will take part in this game. Hence, my insistence on taking into consideration the basic interests of the Egyptian people not only now, but also in the near and distant future. This is because the present generations in Egypt must draw up plans for the future, with all its dimensions and challenges. This is the responsibility of the noble peoples who have a sense of history and are eager to ensure the continuation and development of their society.

This is also why I insisted on giving the people all the facts, and telling them frankly about both the good and the bad. The people have the right to know. In addition, it is an obligation of everyone entrusted with national action at all levels and in every position.

That is why I invite every government department and every political organization in Egypt to abide by the priorities set by the masses, and not to create their own priorities on the basis of their own interests or outlook.

If my position of primary responsibility affords me a more comprehensive outlook on all aspects of our circumstances and problems, then I say with complete conviction that our major goal under our conditions of freedom and democracy is to ease the sufferings of the majority of our working people [applause] and to make every effort to bring forth additional revenue that will help us produce more. We must also intensify all our work to find radical solutions to the basic problems that our people face in their daily lives. This is a political action above all else. At the same time, it is a national and patriotic mission, which every citizen in every position is responsible for. Furthermore, it is my primary concern in my own position.

I am neither a professional politician nor a seeker of any office. Maneuvering and circumvention are not among my hobbies. I will not rest until we establish a secure life for every citizen on the soil of this loyal country. [applause] The road ahead is difficult, long, and hard. Our destiny in dealing with the changes in the world demands that we redouble our efforts, firmly insist on our position, and abide by the spirit of defiance. We are facing new obstacles. After the fall in revenue from the Suez Canal, a new international situation has arisen in which we have had no say. This new situation has caused a great drop in the price of oil. According to current estimates, this reduction will total some $700 million as of 30 June 1986. The corresponding figure for the coming fiscal year, which begins on 1 July, is estimated at $1.2 billion. This sum indicates a difficult and terrible problem. Therefore, we must do a great deal.

This is a new burden, and I have asked the government to expedite the measures taken against it, which will allow us to overcome its repercussions when the time comes to frame the second development plan. Perhaps our sons working abroad realize the difficulty of that situation, and they are able to provide generous contributions to compensate for the drop in revenues from lower oil prices, decreased income from [Suez] Canal tolls, and reduced funds from tourism.

In my statement to you on 13 November, I called on the government to provide all practical facilities that would encourage our sons working overseas to transfer their savings to Egypt. These measures should also reassure them that they will get the correct rate of exchange, and that there will be no tricks or speculation of the type associated with those who take advantage of the difference in exchange rates. This is above and beyond the fact that in so doing, our sons would be discharging their sacred duty toward their homeland as it passes through a time fraught with difficulties. I ask the government today to be decisive about that issue, which I consider to be highly important under our current circumstances. I hope it will announce realistic and practical solutions for it, far removed from the sphere of traditional remedies.

I also feel obligated to address all able Egyptians, in the spirit of Egyptian nationalism, and to ask them to spend their summer vacation this year inside the country. I call on them to contribute to the encouragement of Egyptian tourism, to make up for the losses it has suffered as a result of successive events and the atmosphere prevailing throughout the region, and to save the foreign exchange they would spend in other countries, which are hardly more deserving of our money than Egypt. I would like this process to take place at the initiative of citizens motivated by a sense of belonging to the homeland, a grasp of the circumstances, and an awareness that Egypt's welfare reflects both on their lives and on the lives of their children and grandchildren to come. With our will and determination, we will be able to surmount all the difficulties facing us, keep our heads held high and our feet firmly planted, and safeguard our dignity.

The recent acts of sabotage proved that the millions of people in our country fully believe in the government's straightforwardness and honesty, and that they stand at the forefront to protect public property, and are the first to condemn any tampering or sabotage. This expression of nationalism, which we cherish and take pride in, is worthy of serving as an encouragement for Egyptians working abroad. It could stimulate them to compete in making contributions to increase Egypt's income, as the return on investments will benefit everyone, and will provide services to all, for the unity of Egyptians has become a fact beyond all doubt or suspicion. This fact must prompt the government to be quick in adopting decisive and practical measures that can double remittances from Egyptians abroad.

All of you may have heard the official statements made before this distinguished assembly on Egypt's debts, and on the fields of service and production in which these loans were invested. I would like this attitude to serve as our model and pledge under all circumstances, so that every fact will be available to the people, and that they may be guided by them in their thoughts and actions, and cling to them in the face of rumors and lies.

This is why we must not underestimate the time factor. It is part of our destiny to always be racing against time to satisfy our needs while simultaneously trying to achieve a considerable increase in our income. We must mobilize all our resources to achieve the necessary increase in production.

We must now also pay tribute to the workers of Egypt who have taken good care of their machines and factories and who have made substantial gains in their areas of production. Such activity is in keeping with their patriotic traditions. I call on our workers to redouble their efforts for the sake of Egypt and a better life. I also wish to frankly tell those small groups of workers who have staged strikes for one reason or another that they are wrong. Within given limitations, there are solutions to every problem. These solutions should be sought through legal channels. We are not rich and our country is not a major industrial power. Every lost hour of work and production is an obstacle to economic development.

I understand perfectly that newspapers should support legitimate and feasible demands. However, our society cannot agree with those papers that advocate the idea of strikes or any similar action. Such an attitude is at wide variance with the national needs. Development requires a sense of national responsibility. Our media should rise above sensationalism.

Brothers and sisters: In my letter of appointment to the Cabinet, I defined the tasks for the new government and called for prompt action to be taken to solve our national problems. Of these, I specifically singled out the problems we face in the economy, housing, and tourism. I also called for updating the educational system, for boosting cultural endeavors, for reforming our bureaucracy, and for enhancing public services.

I am ready to admit that the public feeling that we have already had enough time to formulate detailed plans for such reforms is understandable. Therefore, I am now instructing the Cabinet to speed up the implementation of these reform programs. In this respect, I hereby assign the following tasks to the Cabinet and to other institutions of the executive branch:

1. To take prompt action to rationalize expenditure so that we will be able to cope with the reduction in revenues resulting from a drop in oil prices on the world market. This is an immediate task which must be tackled without delay.

2. To remove all obstacles hindering the activities of the private sector or hampering investment. Comprehensive measures should be taken to inspire businessmen with confidence and to produce tangible results. If we are to encourage Egyptians to invest in the homeland, then we must offer them an atmosphere of confidence and stability that will leave absolutely no room for doubt. [applause]

I have been pleased to see several Egyptian companies and banks volunteer to take part in repairing institutions touched by the hands of ruin and destruction. They have thus proved the sincerity of their affiliation to this country, their zeal on behalf of the public, and their realization of their role in maintaining social stability and peace. This is linked to the practical measures that must be quickly adopted so that Egyptians living abroad will transfer more funds here.

3. To strengthen the public sector, free it from restrictions, and enable it to bring up to date its production methods and use advanced technology.

4. To draft a nontraditional tourism policy. If recent events affect tourism income, then we must face this fact with positive action, and work with tourist agencies around the world to bring tourism here.

5. To cut down on the red tape the citizenry must face in their government dealings such as obtaining licenses and notarizing real estate and judicial documents. [applause] I believe I discussed this topic at the cabinet meeting this morning. I hope that procedures to obtain services will be streamlined. I myself have been hearing a lot of complaints about all these procedures. [applause]

6. To reconsider crop structure so that old lands will be used to achieve self-sufficiency in most food crops; we will allocate the new lands to high-intensity cultivation of vegetables and fruits for export.

7. To keep up the daily policy of openness through the media [applause] by giving out details on the economic situation and establishing direct contact with consumers and workers. I depend in this on the people's vigilance and their high awareness. The policy of openness has proved successful. The people have been responsive and chosen of their own volition to stand with the regime, safety, and law.

The economic situation constitutes one of the areas most deserving of attention in our life. The exercise of democracy means partnership. Partnership demands continuous, sincere, and enlightened dialogue with consumers and workers. This means refraining from exaggeration in comments and statements so that the people will not be blinded by glittering promises about things whose realization may require a long time.

Brothers and sisters: I have taken much of your time [laughter], but I have done so within the framework of my constitutional responsibility in order to present clear and definite tasks. I hope that this parliamentary session will see to their implementation. Our hopes are great and encouraging. However, turning such hopes into actions and then implementing them in such a way that their positive results will be seen in the daily lives of our people is the government's responsibility. I do not want to reiterate, but there is no time to lose, there is no room for any delay, and there is no reason for any hesitation or wavering with regard to making and implementing decisions.

It is one of our responsibilities to eliminate a frequently played tune; namely, just who is implementing or turning the words that citizens have heard and read many times into deeds. This is a question that I hope every official at every site will be aware of. We want to reach the public through the truth and through quick implementation [applause] so that the people will put their confidence in the projects and promises about which they hear without hesitation. Trust is the cornerstone of every building.

Brothers and sisters: The eyes of the world are on us. The world fully appreciates our people's nobility and admires them for their cohesion, tenacity, and unity in times of calamity. It also admires the ability of our people to quickly crush a mad sedition which, had it spread, could have destroyed and ruined a great deal. The eyes of the world are looking at us with respect and support, for we are a people who are building and reconstructing; we are a people who equate our dignity with our national aims; and we are a people who are democratically building of our own free will. Our friends have expressed their sincere regret for what has happened and offered every possible cooperation to enable democratic and constructive Egypt to continue its cultural march.

On behalf of every Egyptian, permit me to offer the sincerest thanks and gratitude to those faithful friends who have expressed their noble feelings toward Egypt and its people during those moments and who have shown their great admiration for its role in maintaining peace, security, and stability in the Middle East and in protecting the sanctity of the Arab and islamic nations. In this respect, I would like to mention some brothers leaders who have personally contacted me more than once in the last few days to assure themselves about the situation in our country and to express their feelings of solidarity with Egypt under all circumstances.

These leaders are: His Majesty King Husayn ibn Talal [applause]; President Saddam Husayn [applause], who contacted me from the battlefront where he was following the raging war to liberate his country's national soil; Major General 'Abd al-Rahman Siwar al-Dhahab [applause]; President Mohammed Ziaul Haq [applause]; Yasir 'Arafat [applause]; His Majesty Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id [applause], who sent a special envoy with a message bearing the noblest feelings of cordiality and affection for the Egyptian people; YAR President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih [applause]; His Highness Amir 'Abdallah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz [applause], crown prince of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia; His Highness Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman, Amir of Bahrain [applause]; and His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Ibn Hamad al Thani, Amir of Qatar [applause].

I express our thanks to Egypt's dear friend, President Francois Mitterrand, who was among the first to contact us as soon the news of these events was broadcast. I also offer our gratitude to Italian Prime Minister Bettino Craxi, [applause] who has always shown himself to be a loyal friend and a man of values and principles.

In addition, I would like to praise the positive stand adopted by President Ronald Reagan, his assistants [applause] in the U.S. Administration, and the entire American people. This position reflects a sense of pride in their deep friendship with the noble Egyptian people.

Furthermore, I offer my thanks for the statement issued by the Kuwaiti Government as a sign of its everlasting solidarity with the Egyptian people, as well as the noble gesture it made. I do not want to discuss its details. [applause]

These good feelings had the best effect in all our hearts. If writers in a number of Arab newspapers have surfaced to exploit the opportunity, as usual, to slander and exaggerate, several honorable journalists have also emerged to express the highest sentiments toward Egypt, which has given much. We respect the fact that these writers have defended their dignity, honesty, and noble mission. I am pleased to state for the record that foreign press and radio correspondents in Egypt, who were free to go to the scene of these events, conveyed a true picture to their own countries. Many major radio and television stations around the world put these incidents in their proper perspective. They saw them as passing events incapable of affecting Egypt's firm structure and its strong and solid society.

If these passing acts of sedition confirmed Egypt's status in the outside world to us, they also added much to our idea of national action. They have shown that a civilized form of faith is our greatest ammunition against any demagogic whim or anarchist call, which, in a stray evil moment, was stripped from the noble Egyptian values passed down from generation to generation.

The attitude of the great Egyptian people was an unprecedented collective referendum on the masses' full confidence in their regime, constitutional structure, government policy, and commitment to the rule of law. [applause] With one voice they said yes to stability, yes to security, democracy, and safety, yes to the protection of public property, and yes to the course of building and construction. They likewise echoed their rejection — while conducting themselves magnificently — when they said no to chaos, no to destruction, ruination, and ingratitude, and no to the violation of the law and our sanctities.

Yes, brothers and sisters: The behavior of Egypt's millions of men and women, its elderly and its youth, during the dark hour of sedition was the greatest expression and the most reliable proof that the hearts of Egypt are beating with the spirit of the great awakening. The call for construction has defeated the howlings of demolition and sabotage; the feelings of confidence have scattered all delusive acts of agitation and suspicion; the pulse of love has overwhelmed the cries of hatred and malice; the hymn of truth has silenced the allegations of falsehood and deception; and the light of faith has dismissed and swept away the ghosts of darkness. We simply work to build and to build higher, an objective that can only be achieved through trust and love.

In this respect, I would once again like to emphasize a number of facts of which we should be aware during this important stage of our lives. The first undeniable fact is that the law remains the master, regardless of circumstances or events, and that the people's protection of their resources is more powerful and successful than the imposition of any exceptional measures. As a result of these grave and repugnant events, it was only natural for us to hear calls for the implementation of exceptional measures beyond the law since what had taken place was itself an exception to the nature of things. It was only natural that we should hear and sense such words and feelings. They were not indicative of a desire to retreat from democracy; they were the outcome of a feeling of pain and fear lest these incidents strike a blow against democracy. They were the result of a belief that such exceptional measures would in fact safeguard the drive for democracy.

However, I would like to tell you with complete faith that democracy constitutes a lofty edifice and a firm pyramid in our lives. Whenever democracy faces a test, it is our responsibility to establish the traditions that will provide rational means to confront any obstacle. These traditions, which we must formulate and strengthen in order to make them a beacon for our generation and those to follow, call upon us to adhere to the application of the laws of nature, to be armed with a solid internal front, and to achieve social cohesion among all the sons of Egypt. The people's faith that they are leading a real and sound democratic life has triggered the release of a civilized spirit in their minds and hearts. It is this spirit that has challenged sabotage, confronted any tampering with the people's resources, and rejected the waste of their values and sanctities. This is why I never thought for a moment to resort to any exceptional measure or decision.

There are many people around us who brag about principles and who claim that they are the guardians of right and the defenders of the land. Under similar circumstances, however, it is these same people who never hesitate to chop off heads and to set up the gallows under a rule of steel and fire, without a just trial and without any consideration for the law and the right of each citizen to defend himself.

The second fact, which every Egyptian citizen must realize, is that despite all our economic problems, we are following the right road to reform the economy, increase production, and achieve self-sufficiency in food and clothing. We do not stumble, since we know the way. Therefore, we have bright hopes for the present and the future. There is suffering, but our course will lead to its alleviation. We have no feelings of desperation, but rather advance with believing hearts along the path of hope and brightness. The wheel is turning and moving forward because we seek practical solutions. I can say with a clear conscience that the future augurs well despite our difficulties. It is my firm and unshaken belief that we can overcome the problems before us by objective thought, continuous action, and a true love of our homeland.

We are a people with the prerequisites for an integrated economy. We have deep foundations and roots. God Almighty has blessed us with the ability to create and innovate. What remains is for us to be sincere in our work and to show the team spirit that surfaces in times of hardship and distress. We should turn the tremendous energy stored in our national conscience into a base for unlimited production and giving.

The third fact is that we must learn from what has happened. The lesson to be learned is not the defense of any shortcomings, but of confronting all that is true and sincere. This prompts us, supporters and opponents alike, to deal honestly and impartially with the facts. Instigation will be to no avail, embellishment will not correct mistakes, exaggeration and attempts to outdo will serve neither the supporter nor the opponent, and strict compliance with our national goals and an evaluation of matters in the public interest are the only methods to be used in the national struggle. Thus, the campaign for our awakening moves forward through the rule of law, the defense of democracy, the handling of facts, and the true and honest hope for bright days of righteousness, welfare, and dignity.

If the facts I mentioned are part of our people's pulse, then they deserve the attention of leaders at every level of industry, service, and information. They should believe that these truths are the basic principles of public work. Everyone must rally around them, and use them as criteria to judge social behavior.

Brothers and sisters, while standing among members of the one family, allow me to open my heart to you and express my feelings in a clear voice. There have been moments of deep suffering throughout my life. However, the sorrow I felt on the day these acts of sedition began was the greatest of my life.

I never imagined that at a time when the country was facing a series of horrors to overcome a grinding economic crisis, a group of Egypt's sons, no matter how small, would accept the idea of a retreat in the battle of construction. This is Egypt, whose sons risked death with all the bravery shown by the heroes of the immortal October War, and pulled off a military miracle that astonished the most senior experts around the world. This is Egypt, which has willingly made the most precious sacrifices for the sake our Arab national issues, and — through its stands — rose to the level of offering up its livelihood, souls, and blood.

I never imagined that a such treacherous blow would be struck as we carried out the most honorable actions and offered the purest sweat. I directed all my thoughts to God Almighty [applause] and implored him to defend the soil of Egypt and protect every man, woman, and child. I then adopted all the short-term measures dictated by the position of primary responsibility.

It was with deep satisfaction that I followed the conduct of our great people and received news of the national response by all factions and communities in the peaceful cities and villages of Egypt. I felt this same satisfaction when I saw and sensed with all confidence and certainty that the people cling to their land, institutions, and government, and that they are the brave and loyal guardian of all their resources and of their very being.

This is the awakening of which we must be proud and about which we must boast in the world. This is a blessing from God Almighty, may His omnipotence prevail and His will be done. We must all praise and thank him.

The awakening requires us to be vigilant. It is a vigilance that sounds the loudest warning to anyone who contemplates harming Egypt's security or stability. There can be no mercy for the unruly nor tolerance of treacherous stabs in the back. There can be no forgiveness for those who have caused waste, destroyed, or set fires. The quick deterrence of legal punishment is the mercy for the right of millions to live.

O God, make our sight and vision clear as we continue to fulfill our pledge of justice and purity. O God, with your wisdom and care, give us what will promote our work for the most dignified life and open our path to Your sanction and mercy. O God, strengthen our faith, and fill our hearts and minds with work and love. Preserve our national unity now and in the future.

If this is my invocation at the place of the people, it is also my commitment to you, my promise to the public, my path, and my preparation for it.

The people have taught me much during this sedition and they are the best teacher. The people have shown me that they are noble and venerable, that they appreciate the labor done by workers, respect a sincere call, and join hands with the one who leads them to the path of goodness, love, and safety. The people have taught me that they are both the defender and the sanctuary, and that they were the shield and bastion when all hands were extended in complete faith to face the fires and defend the being and the structure. Yes, these hands were put forward with no invitation other than the call of Egypt, which springs from the bottom of our hearts. It is the call of sacrifice without fear. It is a call of love, sacrifice, and giving from a bright and noble homeland. It is a call that extinguished the flames and showed the way until the entire road was lit. It is a call that shook the awakening, reverberated to the horizons, and pricked up ears everywhere — the ears of those near and far and of friend and foe. It is a proud and bold call: We are the most pious sons who are stronger than all distortions. We are the strong. We are the men for hardship and suffering. We are the strong, the warriors of each day and night. We make life when its enemies betray it. We are the millions. We are the soil, the plant, the water, and all fathers and sons. We are the honorable workers. We are the great people of Egypt.

Brothers and sisters, believe me when I say I was filled with these noble emotions while I followed up events and saw each Egyptian citizen in my own mind as though he were the entire people bursting with the appeal, request, and invocation: May God protect you, O Egypt. We are at your service, O Egypt. Glory, dignity, and immortality to you. May God grant us success, and may His peace and blessings be upon you. [applause]

Abu Ghazalah on Military 'Control' of Civilians

NC101431 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1235 GMT 10 Mar 86

[Text] Cairo, 10 Mar (MENA) — Field Marshal Muhammad 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah, deputy prime minister and minister of defense and war production, has stated that the security situation in Egypt is 100-percent stable. He also said that the recent events could have happened anywhere in the world and that any state could face what Egypt had to face. He pointed out that any state in the world might sometimes have to summon its Armed Forces to contain a sudden crisis.

This came in a reply by Abu Ghazalah to a question from a foreign correspondent following the conclusion of firing exercises by an air defense unit.

Asked to comment on what the correspondent called "the control of civilians by the military," Abu Ghazalah said: There is no control of civilians by the military. No such term exists in the lexicon of any Egyptian. As you know, we believe in democracy and the militarys' part is only to deal with certain disturbances, Abu Ghazalah said.

He added: The Armed Forces are always under the control of the government. We receive orders, execute them, do our duty as best we can, and then return to our barracks — that is all.

In his remarks, Field Marshal Abu Ghazalah spoke about the new air defense system, which he witnessed today and which is called "Nile 23." This system is comprised of guided missiles and anti-aircraft guns fitted on to tracked vehicles and it ensures a high degree of protection for aircraft formations. This Egyptian system consists of twin-barreled, 23-mm guns and Hawkeye ['Ayn al-Saqr] missiles mounted on tracked vehicles. He said that today's tests were the final ones, after which the system will go into service.

Abu Ghazalah said that tests on another new system, "Sinai 23," will begin next month.

He pointed out that tests had also been carried out today on certain equipment restored to service after its estimated life span had ended. Some of this equipment has exceeded twice its estimated life span but has been repaired and may remain in service for another 10 years.

Abu Ghazalah said that the Arab Industrialization Organization and the factories of the Egyptian war production ministry are providing the Armed Forces with various types of equipment in accordance with their requirements.

Field Marshal Abu Ghazalah today attended an Air Defense Forces exercise, which was carried out in four phases. These exercises involved Nile-23, the new system, and SAM-2 missile battalions, which, depending on their condition, had received partial or complete maintenance in Egypt.

The exercises began with SAM-2 missiles firing at a BRX-4 target, which was towed by a MQM-107 drone moving at 200 meters per second. These drones are faster than the average fighter plane. After the target was identified and orders to fire were issued, the target was hit.

The second phase involved the firing of SAM-2 missiles that had undergone a partial overhaul in Egypt. They scored direct hits.

The third and fourth phases involved the simultaneous firing of the Nile-23 system, 4 Hawkeye missiles, and 23-mm guns. These guns were made in the [Egyptian] military factories, are carried by M-113 vehicles, and are equipped with radar. The firing was successful. The target was a Command T-2 drone, which is one-twentieth the size of a plane and moves at speeds of up to 160 kms per hour.

The new system has a number of special characteristics. Among them is that its reaction time is only 8 seconds. The effective range of the 23-mm gun is 22.5 kms and of the radar is 8 kms. The M-113 vehicles can move at a speed of 60 kms and can travel up to 480 kms without refueling. This system, which is the culmination of Armed Forces' efforts to develop armaments, is used to provide anti-aircraft fire during various stages of fighting.

Attending the exercises were Lieutenant General al-Sayyid Hamdi, President Husni Mubarak's military adviser; Vice Admiral 'Ali Tawfiq Jad, Naval Forces commander; Lieutenant General Muhammad 'Abd al-Hamid Hilmi, Air Force commander; Major General 'Adil Khalil, Air Defense Forces commander; a number of members of the People's Assembly Defense and National Security Committee; and many senior Armed Forces commanders.

Al-Azhar Shaykh Expresses Support for Mubarak

NC101425 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1330 GMT 10 Mar 86

[Text] Cairo, 10 Mar (MENA) — His Eminence Shaykh Jad al-Haq 'Ali Jad al-Haq, the grand imam of Al-Azhar Mosque, has stated that every establishment and institution of Al-Azhar supports His Excellency President Husni Mubarak.

After meeting with President Mubarak today, his eminence said that the people's backing of the government and their total condemnation of the recent rioting may be seen as a referendum on the Egyptian people's support for President Mubarak's wise leadership.

Further on Visit by U.S. Official Richard Murphy

Received by 'Abd al-Majid

NC101857 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic
1830 GMT 10 Mar 86

[Text] Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, met with Richard Murphy, U.S. assistant secretary of state, this evening.

They discussed the developments in the Middle East, current efforts to stimulate the peace process, Egyptian-U.S. relations, and the means of strengthening these relations in various fields.

Delivers Message to Mubarak

NC102021 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic
2000 GMT 10 Mar 86

[Text] Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has stated that Mr Richard Murphy, U.S. assistant secretary of state, today handed President Husni Mubarak a message from U.S. President Ronald Reagan.

In a statement following the conclusion of his 2-hour session of talks with the U.S. official, 'Abd al-Majid said that they had an in-depth discussion on bilateral relations and ways of giving impetus to the peace process.

Delegation To Visit U.S. To Promote Tourism

NC071446 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic
1400 GMT 7 Mar 86

[Text] A delegation representing the Egyptian Tourist Chambers Union, led by Dr Ashraf Ghurbal, the former Egyptian ambassador to the United States, will begin a visit to six U.S. cities on Monday [10 March]. The purpose of the tour is to explain the implications of the recent riots and to convey a true picture of the current stability and security in Egypt. The delegation members hope to encourage American tourists to visit Egypt.

Mubarak Receives Sri Lankan Trade Minister

NC101129 Cairo MENA in English 1050 GMT 10 Mar 86

[Text] Cairo, March 10 (MENA) — President Husni Mubarak received today visiting Minister of Trade and Shipping of Sri Lanka Amarasiri. Minister of Economy and Foreign Trade Dr Sultan Abu'ali and the Sri Lankan ambassador here attended the meeting.

Ghali, Soviet Ambassador Discuss Namibia 10 Mar

NC101748 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic
1600 GMT 10 Mar 86

[Text] Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, met with the Soviet ambassador in Cairo today. They reviewed African issues, especially the situation in South Africa. In a statement to our reporter, the Soviet ambassador said that Egypt and the Soviet Union are members of the UN Council of Namibia and that exchanges and consultations are necessary to follow up on events in Namibia.

Tariq 'Aziz Writes on Syria's Stance on War

JN100953 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0710 GMT 10 Mar 86

[Text] Baghdad, 10 Mar (INA) — Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has written an article which appeared in the newspaper *AL-THAWRAH* today under the headline "Weak Excuses for Unjustifiable Stands." The following is the text of the article:

In a statement he made in London a few days ago, the Syrian foreign minister explained his regime's stand on the Iraq-Iran war by claiming that had it not been for his country's stand on the war —meaning its alliance with Iran —this war would have been transformed into a Persian-Arab war; and that his regime has played a political role to avert an expansion of the war.

Although the Syrian minister's statement contained nothing new, being a repetition of past stands, the current circumstances and developments make it necessary to comment on it and discuss it frankly. In the first part of his claim, the Syrian foreign minister supposes at the outset that Iraq, which is fighting a foreign aggression, is not Arab, that its territory is not part of Arab territory, and that its security, sovereignty, and right to choose its political and social systems are not parts of Arab security, sovereignty, and rights. If we generalize the Syrian minister's argument to include a possible clash that might occur tomorrow or the day after between Syria and Israel, would it be considered only a Syrian-Israeli clash with no Arab character? Naturally, no Arab would consider this to be right.

The Syrian minister's theory is based, among others, on a divisive consideration in terms of Arab territory and security. The inevitable result of the triumph of this theory in inter-Arab relations is that each Arab country would be left to single-handedly face foreign threats. And since Iraq was harmed by this divisionist theory, would Syria, whose territory has been occupied for the past 19 years and which is exposed to continuing Zionist aggression, not be harmed by this theory? How can the Syrian foreign minister reconcile this theory with his country's security?

The Syrian regime tried to deal with the danger of this war turning into an Arab-Persian war by allying with the Persian side against the Arab side, thus adding insult to injury. In this stand, the Syrian minister wants to treat the ailment with the cause of the ailment, like Abu Nuwas, the Persian, Arabic speaking poet of old. In order to ward off the threat of a Persian-Arab conflict, the minister reaches an alliance with the Persian against the Arab. The aim of this alliance, as the Syrian rulers say, is based on the hope that their Persian ally would stand by them in their battle for liberation. Thus, they present Iraq as a burnt offering to the Persian regime in the hope that it would participate with them in liberating Palestine and the Golan Heights. A quick look at the map shows that Iraq's area is more than that of Syria and Palestine put together, that Iraq's population is more than the population of both. Thus, not only the Syrian minister's pan-Arab faith but also his geographic concepts are shaken. We also must mention that the Persian ally, who insists on occupying Baghdad on his way to the alleged liberation, will also demand the occupation of Damascus in conformity with geographic facts which the Syrian minister ignores.

In any case it may be useless to blame the representative of a regime that came to power in 1966 and a year later lost the Golan to Israel. And when it waged war to regain the Golan 6 years later, it retreated further, stopped the war, and placed international forces to guarantee a cease-fire along the borders with its occupied territory —a cease-fire which has been ensured for this regime for the past 13 years.

As for the second part of the Syrian minister's claim that his regime averted expanding the war, this requires a longer pause. We have heard these Syrian arguments many times. They have not really been statements or justifications but a profitable trade over the past several years. Ever since the Iraqi forces withdrew from Iranian territory in June 1982 and the Iranian forces began to launch one offensive after another to occupy Iraqi territory, the Syrian regime has been raising the slogan that it was endeavoring to convince Iran not to expand the war to include the Gulf states. This claim in itself implies evil intentions because it implicitly accepts the continuation of the war within its present limits. We do not forget the repeated Syrian statements that play up the justifications for continuing the war and which affirm the impossibility of ending it, contrary to the hopes of Arabs and non-Arabs alike.

It is clear that in saying this, the Syrian officials are not revealing their political acumen but are expressing their desire to prolong the war that has been providing them with continuous income and other well-known gains.

Even if we put aside bad intentions and made a scientific study of the issue we will discover the forgery and contradiction contained in this slogan.

Raising this particular slogan means, among other things, that it was Iran, and not the Arabs of the Gulf, who thought of expanding the war to the Gulf states, and the Persians are the allies of the Damascus rulers. This slogan is also meant to indicate that the relationship between the Damascus rulers and the Persians has convinced the Persians not to expand the war into a Persian-Arab war. Is this not another national justification for their alliance with the Persians? If the Arabs believe this theory propagated by the Syrian regime, what will the rulers of that regime say if another regime, which has their national qualifications, seeks alliance with Israel in order to convince it not to expand its occupation of Palestine and the Golan? Will the Damascus rulers consider this a favor from this other regime the same as the favor they made to their brothers, the Arabs of the Gulf, by confining the war to Iraqi territory? The Syrian minister is not aware of the errors he makes when he tries to justify an unjustifiable stand.

Something else which we are supposed to understand from the Syrian minister's statement is that he expects his Persian ally to have the ability to expand the war in addition to its intention to do so, and that the Syrian rulers and their pan- Arab policy prevented the Iranian regime from using this ability. As the geographical imbalance appeared in the previous claim, so the military imbalance appears in this claim, particularly since he is a minister in the regime which, throughout the past 13 years, has been talking about military balance with Israel — the balance which that regime has not yet reached despite such gallant allies as Khomeyni and Al-Qadhdhafi. It is not surprising to see military imbalance in a regime that practices military action only in the alleys of Beirut and Tripoli and conducts military maneuvers in the streets of Hamah and in Tadmur prison.

The Syrian minister completely ignores the fact that for many years the Iranian regime has been mobilizing all its land, air, and naval military power in its war against Iraq, but has failed to harm Iraq. Every year, the Iranian regime sends its mullahs to every Iranian city and village to gather up ordinary citizens in order to send them to the war. It dispatches its henchmen to the east and west to gather arms, ammunition, and spare parts, and then launches a big offensive on Iraq. The Iranian forces are then wiped out and withdraw disappointed and defeated. How can such a regime open a new front and expand the war with other countries?

Practically, the Iranian regime cannot expand the war before attaining its ambitions in Iraq or at least in its southern part unless that regime is more stupid than it is now. Opening another small front requires military capabilities in addition to those allocated against Iraq and which are not sufficient to achieve its ambitions. It also means confronting military and political eventualities in addition to those burdening it in its war against Iraq. If all Iran's present potentials are incapable of confronting Iraq, from where would it bring the additional potential and how could it confront additional military and political eventualities if it were to expand the war?

These irrefutable facts of course do not annul the possibility that the Iranian regime may commit such a foolish act in addition to its foolishness in confronting Iraq. If the Syrian regime has done a favor in preventing such a foolish act then it is a favor for the Iranian ally, and not for its Arab brothers, because it is saving the ally from dangerous mistakes which could bring its end.

The Syrian minister wants us to forget, but we and the Arabs cannot forget, that since 1982 its Iranian ally launched four big offensives aimed at occupying the southern part of Iraq which is close to Kuwait and Saudi Arabia. Anyone who is aware of the military and geographical balance realizes the meaning of concentrating the offensive against this area in particular. The Iranian regime, which for military and political reasons cannot fight on two fronts with Iraq and the Gulf at the same time, concentrated all its efforts on occupying the southern part of Iraq in the hope of bringing the entire Gulf under its control. In the last battle, and on the day its forces crossed to Al-Faw, the Iranian regime talked about its new neighbors, launched threats, and gave orders to those neighbors. Therefore, the continuation of the Iranian aggression against Iraq will result in it expanding to include the Gulf. Those who differentiate between the continuation of the war and its expansion to the Gulf countries are not only making an incorrect assessment but are also serving Khomeyni's expansionist scheme against the Gulf, the Arab Peninsula, as well as Iraq.

Thus, facts affirm that the Damascus rulers' claims about their achievements are mere blackmail and profitable business. What has prevented the expansion of the war so far is not the Syrian regime's pan-Arab stand and diplomatic capabilities, but Iraq's steadfastness and success in crushing the Iranian attempts of invasion and in aborting Khomeyni's expansionist dreams in Iraq, the Peninsula, and the Gulf.

Foreign Minister Returns Home From Egypt

JN101131 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1122 GMT 10 Mar 86

[Text] Baghdad, 10 Mar (INA) — Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, returned to Baghdad today after a visit to Egypt during which he conveyed a message from President Saddam Husayn to Egyptian President Husni Mubarak dealing with the fraternal bilateral relations and the current situation in the region.

UAE Paper on War, British Involvement

GF101313 Al-Shariqah AL-KHALIJ in Arabic 10 Mar 86 pp 1, 18

["Exclusive" report]

[Text] Well-informed Arab sources have told *AL-KHALIJ* that the recent Iranian offensive called "Val-Fajr 8"so far has failed to achieve its goals.

According to information circulated by the highest political levels in the region, the sources said the Iranian offensive aims at occupying Iraqi territories south of Basra in addition to the Al-Rawdatayn region of Kuwait where the main oil fields are located.

The sources said that the Iraqi military counteroffensive was mainly directed at foiling the goals of the offensive and that the main potential of the counterattack is to establish a firm defensive to stop the Iranians from widening the area they have established in the region between Al-Bishah and Al-Faw City.

The sources affirmed that Iraq has succeeded in establishing a defense that stopped the Iranian offensive and in carrying out a series of counterattacks and liberating important areas occupied by the Iranian forces.

The sources added that the major strategic goal of the Iraqi forces is to stop the development of the Iranian offensive, the main offensive which Iran has prepared for for more than 1 year. The Iraqi forces have succeeded in aborting all Iranian attempts to advance, including the recent Iranian attempt carried out the middle of last week.

Quoting confirmed information circulated in the region, the sources revealed that there was a big British role during the recent Iranian offensive. The information states that British military experts have participated in planning the operation to invade Al-Faw, and that they participated in plotting the offensive due to their historical knowledge of the geography of the region.

Official circles in the region circulated detailed information about the type and quantity of British weapons and spare parts which arrived directly from Britain to Iran; among the weapons are tanks, long range-artillery, antiaircraft missiles, equipment for frogmen, parts for U.S. F-5's, F-4 fighters, boats, and rubber boats used by the Iranians to cross Shatt al-'Arab during the recent offensive.

The sources believe the British support for the Iranian military operations in southern Iraq is to affect the oil markets, since Britain believes that Iran's occupation of southern Iran and some parts of Kuwait will reduce the production quotas in the international market to about 2 to 3 million barrels per day. This will be effective in making the other GCC states respond to calls to reduce their production.

The sources said that the reduction of international oil prices has had a disastrous effect on the economy in Britain, and that a continuation in the price decline will give the oil of the North Sea fields only two options: to either stop production or announce the bankruptcy of the companies responsible for the production, because the cost of production at the North Sea oil fields is about $5 and $17 per barrel, and production will not be economical if the price of oil in the international market reaches less than $22 per barrel.

The sources believe that Iran is as affected as Britain, since its exports decreased to about 1.5 to 2 billion barrels per day due to the Iraqi attack of oil installations in Khark Island. With the decline in prices, Iran will not be able to finance the war or to meet the vital needs of the citizens.

The sources expected that the recent British stance will reflect on its relations with a number of Arab countries. The sources did not eliminate the possibility that in the next few days there will be an increase in the Iraq-Iran war. These sources expect Iran to try to occupy the Kuwaiti islands of Bubiyan and Warbah in an attempt to achieve some of the goals of its recent offensive in southern Iraq, especially that part which includes the oil fields. The sources added that continuous Kuwaiti official statements that it will not allow anyone to approach Bubiyan Island and that there are no Iraqi forces on the island shows that Kuwait is aware of the Iranian threat.

Reportage on Combat Operations in War With Iran

'Very Large' Maritime Target Hit

JN110831 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 0815 GMT 11 Mar 86

[Unscheduled announcement]

[Text] A military spokesman has stated the following:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. As long as the ignorant Iranian rulers continue to follow the road of evil, we will continue to chase them in order to destroy all the means they use to carry out aggression on our chaste soil. In embodiment of the heroic role of our naval force, the brave sea lions, at 0329 today [0029 GMT], dealt an accurate and effective blow to a very large maritime target near the Iranian coast. After performing its duty, our force returned safely to base.

[Dated] 11 March 1986

Communique No 2,144

JN101745 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1700 GMT 10 Mar 86

[Communique No 2,144 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 10 March 1986]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our valiant Armed Forces are daily becoming more determined to crush the aggressors. They continue to tear up enemy remnants according to set plans, turning their aggression against our territory into a definite catastrophe and certain death, as well as a final and decisive victory for great Iraq.

The following is a roundup of activities for yesterday evening and today:

1. On the VII Army Corps front:

Our forces of the valiant Al-Rashid column in the central and southern axes, supported by intense fire from our heroic Air Force, Navy, and brave artillery, put up walls of fire against the Khomeyniite remnants. By means of a series of close-range clashes with the enemy, our forces managed to inflict extremely massive losses on Khomeyniite personnel, weaponry, and equipment. The heroes of the northern column also continued to hit enemy positions with heavy fire, inflicting additional losses. Thus, our forces are determined to turn the narrow strip of Al-Faw peninsula into a hell whose fire will scorch the enemies of God and the homeland until we wipe out their presence on our territory. It is from God we seek help and success.

2. In order to expand the size of the catastrophe which the ignorant rulers of Iran have chosen for themselves, our gigantic Air Force took upon itself the task of implementing our great people's decision in this regard by destroying all enemy knaves, resources, equipment, weaponry, and targets and by extending splendid support to our columns which are advancing toward the liberation of our sacred land. Our planes carried out 221 combat missions today.

At 2235 [1935 GMT] yesterday and at 1330 today, our planes launched two violent raids on two large maritime targets near the Iranian coast, scoring two accurate and effective hits. After carrying out all these missions, our brave eagles returned safely and triumphantly to the homeland. Praised be God, the best supporter.

3. Those rogues who have not learned the lesson are daily tasting at the hands of the Iraqis the severe punishment they deserve on land, at sea, and in the air. The brave cavaliers of the helicopter gunships took their share today of harvesting the heads of rogues. They destroyed large quantities of enemy equipment and weaponry in 183 combat sorties. They returned safely to base in God's care and protection.

4. Our efficient units in the I Army Corps northern sector operational theater engaged enemy units opposite them, inflicting the following losses: a. twelve enemy soldiers killed; b. seven personnel groups destroyed; c. one tubular launcher destroyed along with its vehicle; d. four heavy-caliber machine-

guns, including one antiaircraft machinegun, destroyed; e. three vehicles destroyed; f. seven infantry positions destroyed; and g. two mortars destroyed.

5. The Khomeyniite rogues shelled Abu al-Khasib District and the suburbs of Chuwartah and Kanaru with long-range artillery.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 10 March 1986

Netherlands Foreign Minister Arrives for Visit

Received by King Husayn

JN072010 Amman Television Service in English 2000 GMT 7 Mar 86

[Text] His majesty the king received at Al-Nadwah Palace this evening Mr Hans van den Broek, chairman of the current session of the European Community and Netherlands foreign minister. The meeting was attended by the prime minister, the chief of the Royal Court, the court minister, the Armed Forces commander in chief, the foreign minister, the Jordanian ambassador to the EC, and the Netherlands ambassador in Amman. Mr van den Broek arrived in Amman earlier in the day.

Received by Prince Hasan, Al-Masri

JN081346 Amman Domestic Service in English 1200 GMT 8 Mar 86

[Text] His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan received in his office this morning Mr Hans van den Broek, head of the European Community and foreign minister of the Netherlands, who is currently visiting Jordan. Discussions during the meeting dealt with cooperation between Jordan and the European Community and ways to promote it. Foreign Minister Tahir Al-Masri received Mr van den Broek later in the day.

King Husayn Telephones Mubarak, Saddam Husayn

JN101834 Amman Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 10 Mar 86

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn made a telephone call to His Excellency Egyptian President Muhammad Husni Mubarak. They exchanged viewpoints on a number of Arab and international issues. His majesty also phoned His Excellency Iraqi President Saddam Husayn this morning. During the contacts, his majesty reassured himself about the safety of the Iraqi military situation in the fierce combat the Iraqi Army is waging in defense of its territory against the unjust Iranian aggression. His Excellency President Saddam asserted that the Iraqi Army is capable of purging its territory and achieving victory.

Prince Hasan Opens Amman Seminar on ARABSAT

JN081353 Amman Domestic Service in English 1200 GMT 8 Mar 86

[Text] His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan has called for utilizing the great capabilities of ARABSAT for the promotion of Arab technology in this field. His royal highness was speaking at the opening ceremony of a seminar on ARABSAT in developing regional culture and education. The 2-day seminar is organized by the Arab Thought Forum.

In his address, his royal highness said the ARABSAT project is aimed at transmitting technology in the field of space communciations to the Arab world. It also aims at creating a modern system for comprehensive inter-Arab information to achieve a high degree of national coordination. His highness added that the utilization of ARABSAT services requires serious Arab participation, including the construction of suitable ground substations and other networks which would facilitate the transmission of information from and to these ground stations.

AL-DUSTUR on Murphy's New Mideast Tour

JN080836 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 8 Mar 86 pp 1, 23

[Editorial: "Murphy's New Tour"]

[Text] The new tour which U.S. envoy Richard Murphy intends to make to the Middle East in the next few days is supposed to revive efforts to achieve peace in the region. This peace is facing a deadlock because of Israeli intransigence and the complete U.S. bias toward Israel and its arbitrary policy.

The ball is still in the Israeli and U.S. courts. As Washington realizes, Israel has not changed its intransigent stand rejecting the true prerequisites of a fair and permanent peace. The United States is also still far awy from adopting a frank and balanced stand toward the crisis in the region, despite the fact that Washington can change this Israeli stand.

The United States made a step toward an international conference and recognition of the Palestinian people's legitimate rights. The United States, which is a superpower dutybound to maintain peace, is called upon to adopt a balanced and clear stand unbiased to Israel. Such a balanced stand can prepare the atmosphere for parties to the conflict to reinforce the process for fair peace based on complte Israeli withdrawal and on guaranteeing the Palestinian people's legitimate rights.

The Arabs and Palestinians have adopted a positive stand toward peace efforts based on the strategy endorsed by the Fes summit. They also showed honest and sincere intentions toward finding a political settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict. On the other hand, in addition to its known intransigence and disavowal of the Palestinian people's rights to their land, Israel continued to establish settlements and to annex and Judaize land. This policy was confirmed by Knesset discussion of a suggestion calling for annexing the West Bank and Gaza and by voices calling for implementing Israeli laws in the occupied territory.

All this which is taking place with U.S. knowledge and blessing has led to loss of confidence in Washington's credibility, to obstruction of sincere efforts to achieve peace, and to an increase in the doubts and fears of Arabs and Palestinians, who showed a certain desire to make efforts to find a permanent settlement succeed.

In this case, the U.S. Administration must put pressure on Israel to accept peace and to stop building settlements, as well as to stop actual annexation of occupied territory. Such a step will crystallize the U.S. stand on the Palestinian people's legitimate rights and restore confidence in U.S. credibility and in U.S. ability to act as mediator in solving the crisis in the region. Thus, Murphy's new tour will be useful and capable of removing the stalemate prevailing in peace efforts. Otherwise, the region will remain a hotbed of tension and dangers threatening peace in this region and the world, as well as U.S. interests in the Middle East.

Further on French Hostages, Seurat Execution

Photos Show Seurat 'Corpse'

NC101700 Paris AFP in English 1648 GMT 10 Mar 86

[Text] Beirut, March 10 (AFP) — Photos said to show the body of French hostage Michel Seurat were sent to a Western news agency bureau here Monday, with a note claiming to be from his kidnappers, the Islamic Jihad, confirming that he had been killed.

The three black and white pictures were shots said to be of Mr Seurat's newly-shaven face with his eyes half-closed, a corpse in a blanket lying in an open coffin, and a closed coffin with a crucifix on top. The typed note with the pictures described Mr Seurat as an "espionage expert."

Claims that the university researcher, who was kidnapped in May last year, was killed last week had not previously been authenticated.

The typed note said the Islamic Jihad was not holding the four members of a French television crew abducted on Saturday. It said the kidnappers of the Antenne-2 television crew had falsely used the name of the Jihad and were misrepresenting the Jihad's position.

Warning the other group to stop using the Jihad name, it said all future Jihad communiques would be accompanied by a picture of one of the hostages it is holding.

"We affirm at the same time that the life of this hostage depends on the speed of the French Government in satisfying our demands," the statement added.

Islamic Jihad Criticizes Negotiations

NC101843 Paris AFP in English 1833 GMT 10 Mar 86

[Excerpts] Beirut, March 10 (AFP) — Islamic Jihad, a clandestine Shi‘ite Moslem group, sent three black and white photographs to a Western news agency here Monday to back up its claim to have killed one of four French hostages it has been holding since last year.

At the same time, the group said in a typed statement that it was not holding four members of a French television crew abducted on Saturday.

It said it had no intention to be "used" in the runup to French National Assembly elections, due Sunday.

"We do not want to blackmail anyone, but we demand a legitimate right which the French Government — which has been conniving with our enemies — has infringed," the communique said.

It did not detail which "right" was being jeopardized.

The pictures showed a recognizable likeness of hostage Michel Seurat, 38, unshaved and shirtless, his right eye half-open and left eye closed. Another shot showed a corpse wrapped in a large-checkered blanket, with bandaged head and feet protruding.

The third showed a closed coffin with a crucifix on top.

The accompanying statement denounced Mr Seurat, an employee of the French Center for Studies and Research of the Contemporary Middle East, as "a specialized agent of the intelligence services."

Islamic Jihad said it had killed Mr Seurat in the expectation that the French Government would make "historic decisions that would take France out of the lap of the United States and Israel."

"We had hoped France would adopt a moderate policy which would take into consideration the interests of the French people and not be hostile to the Moslems and the world's oppressed," it said.

This would contribute to the release of the hostages still being held, the statement added.

Further on 'Jihad' Statement

NC101817 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 10 Mar 86

[Text] The Islamic Jihad has distributed the photographs of a body that it says is French researcher Michel Seurat. The organization had announced that Seurat was executed last Wednesday. AP reports says that the Islamic Jihad statement asserts: We stress that the life of the other three hostages will depend on the speed with which the French Government responds to our clear and detailed demands. The statement adds that the French Government should refrain from dispatching envoys whose only object is to deceive the French public.

However, Seurat's friends in Beirut have not observed any traces of blood or injuries in the photos of Seurat. This leaves unclear whether Seurat died a natural death or was murdered.

Birri Urges Hostage Release

NC101524 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 10 Mar 86

[Text] Responding to a question about the kidnapped Frenchmen, attorney Nabih Birri, minister of state for the south and reconstruction, said: We are opposed to the French decision to hand over the two Iraqis to the Baghdad government. However, this does not justify the abduction of French journalists in Beirut's nationalist areas. This recent abduction constitutes a blatant attack on the dignity of Lebanese Muslims.

Continuing, Minister Birri added: The French television crew was captured while covering a rally in Bi‘r al-‘Abd and in the Imam al-Rida Mosque. Deeds such as this kidnapping are impermissible. Islam and the Muslims have had enough trouble. The situation has passed beyond the limit of endurance and is quite harmful to Muslims and the national areas.

Minister Birri said: What wrong has the team commited? This team was conveying the viewpoints of the nationalist and Islamic forces to France. This action is helpful, not suspect, as the kidnappers claim. We hope this kidnapping will be the last. Such methods are alien to Jihad and Islam. We hope the French journalists will be released immediately.

Hizballah-'Jihad' Ties Denied

NC101247 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
1130 GMT 10 Mar 86

[Text] Scholar Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah has made a statement explaining that Westerners in Lebanon, where Muslims are holding 17 foreigners hostage, must not be held responsible for their countries' policies. He said: We do not wish to underestimate the importance of respecting the individual European or American if he is innocent and good, and not a spy, criminal, or conspirator.

In an interview with the PRESS NEWS AGENCY, Fadlallah added: However, we would like to comment on the fact that those in the imperialist world are pampered, while those in the Third World, especially the Muslims, are seen as deserving murder, persecution, and torture, regardless of the justification.

Fadlallah denied that there is any connection between Hizballah and the Islamic Jihad organization.

Mediator Ra'd Arrives in Beirut

NC110626 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic
0545 GMT 11 Mar 86

[Text] Razzah Ra'd, the French physician of Lebanese origin, arrived in Beirut from Damascus last night. In a statement, he pointed out that he left the Syrian capital after the announcement of Seurat's execution and the distribution of a photo and a declaration confirming his death. He added that he will meet with the kidnappers in a bid to verify this report and to put a stop to the massacre, as he put it. He described Seurat's death as a disaster and noted that those who prevented him from continuing his current mission 3 weeks ago were directly responsible for it.

Meets With Kidnappers

LD110938 Paris Domestic Service in French
0800 GMT 11 Mar 86

[Excerpt] The next few hours are undoubtedly crucial for the fate of the French hostages in Lebanon. Dr Ra'd, the French doctor that the Islamic Jihad accepts as sole interlocutor, is at this very moment meeting with the kidnappers. He confided on the telephone a short while ago to Alain Menargues, our correspondent in Beirut, that his first task will consist in discovering if Michel Seurat has indeed been executed. The photographs published yesterday do not permit one to say so. Personally, he cannot believe it is so, nor can the Syrians, he confided. He cannot imagine that the kidnappers are capable of such a setup. The negotiations will indeed be very difficult.

Dr Ra'd confided to Alain Menargues that the families of the pro-Iranian prisoners who are imprisoned in France are each influencing the fate of one hostage, which further complicates the elements of the problem. Dr Ra'd considers that one has to act quickly now. He implied by one phrase that he regrets not having been able to negotiate last December, with so many facts in hand, according to him, the problem would already have been settled. The government, he repeated, should not have been content with state-to-state relations but should have made direct contact with the kidnappers.

AL-NAHAR on Ra'd Mission

NC111259 Beirut AL-NAHAR in Arabic 10 Mar 86 p8

[Excerpt] Early on Sunday, 9 March, the French authorities decided to dispatch the Lebanese-born French mediator, Dr Razzah Ra'd to Syria and Lebanon. It is understood that this decision was made following discussions between the Elysee, Hotel Mignon, and Quai d'Orsay. French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas telephoned Dr Ra'd to inform him of the government's decision in the early hours of yesterday, Sunday, after having received the green light from President Mitterrand.

What is Ra'd's task and what message does he have to convey?

AL-NAHAR has learned that the French Government has made no disclosures about the nature of Ra'd's mission. They do not wish to appear to be giving in to the demands of the kidnappers. However, Ra'd goes to Damascus and Beirut with the unofficial backing of the French Government.

Ra'd has a double task:

1. To act as liaison between the official French envoys sent to the area. These are: Henri Servant, the roving Middle East ambassador who arrived in Damascus on 8 March; Serge Boisdevaix, deputy secretary general at the foreign ministry, who arrived in Beirut on 9 March; and a French envoy to Baghdad whose identity has not been revealed.

2. To draw up an outline for a settlement, incorporating various ideas, which, a well-informed source has told *AL-NAHAR*, Ra'd has been authorized to propose. These suggestions, with some final touches that can be added after the preliminary outcome of the envoy's mission is known, would be presented to the kidnappers.

Doctor Ra'd accepted the mission only on condition that the French authorities would provide him with the practical means of convincing the kidnappers to reach a deal satisfactory to both sides.

The most important points of this deal are:

1. An official French pledge to reduce the prison sentences of members of the group accused of attempting to assassinate former Iranian Prime Minister Shahpur Baktiar in Paris. The proposed reduction is up to 7 years, but Ra'd is authorized to try to keep the reduction in their sentences to 5 years.

2. Safeguards from the Iraqi Government concerning the lives of the two Iraqi opposition figures, who were extradited a few days ago, and their right to a fair trial. In this connection, the French Foreign Ministry yesterday announced that the French ambassador in Baghdad had met the two Iraqis and found them to be safe and sound.

3. Guarantees by Syria, the country that will be sponsoring the agreement, that the French Government will honor its obligations if the Frenchmen are released.

According to the same source, there are two major obstacles to a settlement on these lines. One is that the Iranian authorities have so far declined to receive the French envoy to Tehran, Marc Honnefous, who is the director for Near Eastern affairs at the French Foreign Ministry, even though Iran initially approved his mission. The second obstacle is that the kidnappers are insisting that the two extradited Iraqis be returned to France, from where they should be allowed to travel to a country of their choice, for example, Lebanon, Syria, Libya, or any other country.

Silvestrini Conveys Papal Message to Al-Jumayyil

NC101521 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
1300 GMT 10 Mar 86

[Text] The members of the papal delegation visited the Presidential Palace this afternoon. Monsignor Silvestrini delivered a message to President Shaykh Amin al-Jumayyil from his holiness the pope. President al-Jumayyil hosted a luncheon in honor of the papal delegation, which also was attended by the leaders of Christian sects.

In a statement after the meeting, Silvestrini expressed his happiness at visiting Lebanon. He noted that his mission reflects the pope's sincere feelings for all Lebanese. He voiced the pope's spiritual solidarity with those who are suffering and had reached the limits of despair.

The papal envoy added: I am confident that his holiness the pope will continue to inspire the sons of Lebanon. He pointed out that the pope's help would be beneficial to this dear nation. Silvestrini said he hoped that the efforts of Lebanon's friends would resolve the situation and restore peace and stability to the country.

Karami on Talks With Papal Envoy

NC101726 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
1300 GMT 10 Mar 86

[Remarks by Lebanese Prime Minister Rashid Karami to questions by unidentified correspondents following a meeting of the West Beirut Coordination Committee on 10 March — recorded]

[Text] [Karami] I have had a meeting with the papal envoy and have briefed him on the various aspects of the Lebanese crisis. I also gave him my views of ongoing events, and my approval of the principles presented by his holiness the pope regarding Lebanon's unity and sovereignty and the coexistence among its people. I believe that everyone accepts these principles, and that the continuing dispute is over their implementaiton.

We have made a series of contacts, particularly in Geneva, Lausanne, Damascus, Bikfayya, and B'abda. However, they have all failed, as the intntions are not yet identical to the requirements of the desired solution. Therefore, we hereby declare that the tripartite agreement, which represents the way out of this painful situation, is still the best hope despite existing objections to it. It is my belief that during the discussions to define the principles and provisions of this agreement, correspondence was maintained between Damascus and B'abda and communications with various functionaries were conducted in order to keep the appropriate people briefed on the content of these talks. Therefore, it is not true that after the agreement was signed some people were taken aback, since communications had kept them abreast of what was happening.

If this agreement has been formulated for a transitional period, then I see nothing wrong with approving it, as long as the final word rests with the Chamber of Deputies.

I understand from Silvestrini that the Vatican has responded to the calls made to the pope and that it will do its best to help the Lebanese find ways that will enable them to agree among themselves and, consequently, to survive their crisis. The Vatican sent envoy Silvestrini to make his good offices and to undertake efforts to patch up differences and reconcile the Lebanese, thereby allowing them to attain unity and national accord.

Although we wish Silvestrini success, we nevertheless implore almighty God to grant it to the Lebanese as well, for this remains the only way to end our ordeal. I believe that everything that comes from abroad is to help us. However, no one can take our place.

[Question] It has been reported that East Beirut leaders have asked the papal envoy to amend the tripartite agreement.

[Karami] It is also my understanding that there are some proposals regarding certain points of the tripartite agreement. The Vatican thinks that the agreement would be more acceptable if certain proposed amendments were made. This is what the papal envoy told me. I cannot comment on their proposals.

[Question] Has anything new appeared to thaw the frozen political situation?

[Karami] I don't think that the stands of the various sides and parties are secret. Everyone has declared his position. We are now looking for a solution that will end the tragic situation.

[Question] What can you say about your meeting with the French envoy?

[Karami] I have met with the French envoy. I listened as he expressed the concern of his country, which has been prompted by the abduction of some French nationals in Lebanon. We have repeatedly announced our rejection of such methods. We have made all kinds of contacts to ensure the release of these people.

We will continue to pursue such a course, for these incidents do not serve either our cause or objectives.

[Question] [words indistinct]

[Karami] We have been briefed on their meetings in Damascus. They expressed their commitment to the resolutions that were adopted by the Islamic Grouping. All the strike and special forces have been formed to establish security in West Beirut. I don't think there is anyone who will deviate from the agreed plan.

Silvestrini, Muslim Leaders Talk

NC111121 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
1015 GMT 11 Mar 86

[Text] Monsignor Achille Silvestrini met today with the following leaders of Lebanon's Islamic communities: Mufti Hasan Khalid, Shaykh Muhammad Shams al-Din, and Shaykh Muhammad Abu Shaqra. After the session, which ended at 1130, Silvestrini said: I am very satisfied with the talks I have had with Lebanese officials.

For his part, Shaykh Hasan Khalid, the mufti of the Republic, noted: The Vatican envoy passed along a number of ideas that he had been instructed to convey. We, in turn, presented our own views to him. Mufti Khalid added that the members of the Vatican delegation clearly came to express the concerns of his holiness the pope and his desire to see something done for the Lebanese.

Mufti Khalid declared: Once the Lebanese trust each other, work for each other's rights, and grow eager to create an atmosphere of justice, equality, and dignity for all, we will certainly live in peace.

Monsignors Silvestrini, Giatti, and Tauran have returned to Bkirki for a meeting with Maronite bishops and abbots before going on to Damascus.

UN's Goulding Talks To Press, Returns to Beirut

NC100732 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
0530 GMT 10 Mar 86

[Text] Marrack Goulding, UN under secretary general for political affairs, returned to Beirut last night to resume his contacts with President al-Jumayyil and Prime Minister Karami. Goulding will meet with Ministers Nabih Birri and Walid Junblatt today, and will leave for occupied Jerusalem tomorrow as part of his ongoing tour, which will include stops in Damscus and Amman.

Goulding has stated that the situation in the south would be extremely dangerous if UNIFIL were to withdraw. Speaking at a news conference in Ma'rakah during an inspection of UNIFIL positions, Goulding said that the recent Israeli operation and the subsequent shelling have complicated matters, and should have never taken place.

Goulding denied reports that he has specific proposals concerning the situation in the south. However, he said: I have ideas regarding the implementation of the Security Council's resolutions, which I have discussed with the Lebanese Government. He noted that he will examine these views in Israel, which he will visit after completing his meetings in Beirut. He pointed out that the hurdles facing the renewal of UNFIL's mandate in April should not be exaggerated. At the same time, he made it clear that the decision by the U.S. Congress to reduce America's contribution to the UNFIL budget is a major obstacle.

Goulding, Birri Hold Talks

NC101415 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
1130 GMT 10 Mar 86

[Text] Marrack Goulding, UN under secretary general for political affairs, began his consultations today by visiting Minister Nabih Birri.

After the meeting, Goulding said: My talks with Minister Birri were useful. We discussed the situation in the south, where I spent 2 days, as well as the renewal of UNIFIL's mandate. I found Minister Birri's views to be quite constructive.

Goulding was asked about the possibility of several countries withdrawing their troops from UNIFIL. He replied: I have no reason to believe that any of the states taking part want to pull out.

As to whether he has any new ideas concerning Resolution 425, the UN official said: I have some ideas, but no plans or definite proposals. I discussed these ideas with Minister Birri and they will be further examined in the other countries I will visit.

For his part, Minister Birri noted that the central topics of his exchanges with Goulding and Aime were southern Lebanon and ways of implementing Resolution 425. I briefed them on the sufferings of the southern Lebanese before and after 1978. I expressed my belief that national resistance is the only option for Lebanon, as well as the residents of the south, until all our land is liberated unconditionally.

Minister Birri said it would be unacceptable to discuss any measures or arrangements that fail to conform to the truce agreement or Resolution 425. He noted that Israel cannot justify its presence in the south by claiming there is no state or authority in Lebanon. Birri declared that the existing authority is the authority of the people. Israel, he added, did not wait for any authorization from the Lebanese Government or people before setting up its so-called border strip in 1978. Similarly, Israel cannot remain in the south under the pretext of protecting the Christians. There is absolutely no difference between Christians and Muslims in the south.

Minister Birri explained that the Amal Movement is defending the public and its freedoms in the south. This comes at a time when Israel is mistreating the people of the south without making any exceptions for Christians. When Israel raided a number of villages in the south recently, including Tibnin, they were brazen enough to enter a Christian cemetery and shoot apart most of the graves. Nor did the Israelis spare the homes of Christians from looting in this particular town or in any other.

Birri stated that Israel cannot use the argument that the border strip affords security to the Galilee. This theory was disproved by Israel's own raid on the south. That foray was a failure and Israel will lose more men and suffer additional casualties while the government tries to hide the truth from its own people.

Birri said that Lebanon, the inhabitants of the south, and the Amal Movement, which is the backbone of the resistance, will accept nothing less than the unconditional implementation of Resolution 425. The Israelis must withdraw and UNIFIL should be deployed right along the international border in cooperation with legitimate Lebanese forces, which are exemplified by Army units and those charged with internal security.

Minister Birri added that after Goulding's tour of the south, the UN official expressed his great admiration for the people of the area and their faith. The UN official also voiced his satisfaction with the reconstruction going on throughout the south, a fact thath highlights the genuine determination of the Lebanese to hold on to their land.

Birri was asked if he would like to visit the south. He responded that he would do so only after its liberation, God willing.

Goulding Talks With Junblatt

NC101416 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1230 GMT 10 Mar 86

[Text] At 1300 today, UN Under Secretary General Marrack Goulding and his assistant Jean-Claude Aime met with Progressive Socialist Party leader Walid Junblatt in the latter's house in Beirut. The meeting ended at 1345.

Following their talks, Goulding said: I spoke with Junblatt and briefed him on my mission in Lebanon. This is the first time I have met him. The talks were useful. I have no further comment.

Junblatt said: The most important point discussed, which concerns everybody, is the south. Only by solving the problem of the south, in my view, will we succeed in dealing with the local aspects of the Lebanese crisis. UN forces must be deployed in the south and UN resolutions must be implemented, particularly Resolution 425. Naturally, a Lebanese army should be deployed along with the UN forces. I believe that this is the best solution.

Answering a question, Junblatt said: No one in the national ranks can accept any security arrangements that are similar to those of 17 May. The only acceptable arrangement is the implementation of Resolution 425.

Al-Hashim Takes Over as Voice of Lebanon Director

NC100835 Beirut AL-NAHAR in Arabic 9 Mar 86 p 3

[Excerpt] Minister Joseph al-Hashim yesterday began his duties as director general of the "Voice of Lebanon" radio. His appointment resulted from an agreement between the Phalangist Party and the Lebanese Forces that was reached after the events of 15 January and ratified by the phalangist emergency committee.

Al-Hashim met with the radios' staff yesterday afternoon. The meeting was attended by the chairman of the Lebanese Forces Executive Committee, Dr Samir Ja'ja', his deputy, lawyer Karim Paqraduni, and his political and information adviser, Tawfiq Hindi.

Speaking at this meeting, Al-Hashim stressed "the role of the Lebanese Forces in safeguarding private freedoms and the freedom of expression." He also noted that "social freedom is based on individual freedom, and individual security is derived from public security. All these values are earnestly defended by the Lebanese Forces."

Crossing Points in Beirut Closed; Gunfire in Mountain

NC101259 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1150 GMT 10 Mar 86

[Text] We received the following report a few minutes ago: All crossing points between the two sectors of the capital are now closed.

Prior to this security development, no important incidents had taken place on the traditional contact lines. There was, however, some sniper fire this morning on the Ra's al-Nab'-commercial markets line, which led to the closure of the Al-Masalih-Qasqas crossing. At 1130, sniper fire caused the Al-Barbir-Museum crossing to be closed. This crossing was reopened at 1245, but, as we have already reported, all crossings are now completely closed.

An explosion was heard at 1230 today. It transpired that it was caused by a rocket fired over the Al-Masalih crossing point.

Meanwhile, a guarded calm has been prevailing on the combat lines in Beirut's southern suburb. There has been heavy-caliber automatic weapon fire on the Suq al-Gharb, 'Aytat, and Kayfun combat lines in the mountain area since 1230. Firing reached as far as Baysur road.

Lebanon's Franjiyah Arrives in Damascus

JN101411 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1358 GMT 10 Mar 86

[Text] Damascus, 10 Mar (SANA) — Former Lebanese President Sulayman Franjiyah arrived here this afternoon on a visit to Syria. In a statement on arrival, Franjiyah expressed his pleasure at visiting Damascus. He saluted the 23d anniversary of the 8 March revolution and wished Syria and its people further progress and propserity and victory over its enemies.

Received by Al-Asad

JN101748 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 10 Mar 86

[Excerpt] President Hafiz al-Asad received former Lebanese President Sulayman Franjiyah at 1900 today.

Foreign Minister Al-Shar' Returns From U.K., Austria

JN080644 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 8 Mar 86

[Text] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and his accompanying delegation returned to Damascus from Austria yesterday evening after his official visit to the United Kingdom and Austria. During the visit, Al-Shar' held talks with senior officials of both countries on developing bilateral relations, the situation in the region, and matters of mutual interest.

Reportage on Al-Shar' Visit to Austria

For reportage on the 3-7 March visit to Austria by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', including his 7 March press conference, see the Austria section of the 10 March Western Europe *DAILY REPORT* and subsequent issues.

Interviewed by AL-QABAS

GF101644 Kuwait AL-QABAS in Arabic 9 Mar 86 p 25

[Interview with Syrian Minister of Foreign Affairs Faruq al-Shar' by Patrick Seale "during the minister's visit to London" — date not given]

[Excerpts] [Seale] Syrian leaders have said before that there cannot be fruitful negotiations with Israel until the Arabs achieve a "strategic equivalence;" thus, it would seems that the talks will be delayed for an indefinite period. This is one of the reasons why some people say Syria is a rejectionist state. Has Syria's stance changed? Are you ready to negotiate if conditions are met?

[Al-Shar'] We do not refuse peace; we refuse capitulation. We are honest in our endeavor to achieve a just permanent peace in this region. However, in our endeavor for peace we should be strong enough to foil any possible Israeli aggression against us.

As I told Mrs Thatcher, not only have we endeavored for peace, but President al-Asad has constantly contributed to the stability of our region contrary to Israel. We have exerted many efforts to establish peace in Lebanon and to stop the bloodshed. Regarding the Gulf War, we tried to contribute to a settlement from the very beginning. When we failed, we did our best to prevent an expansion of the war.

We have an interest now in helping Egypt restore its sovereignty, and its will and capability to make independent decisions. 'Abd al-Nasir lost the Sinai but he maintained Egypt's pride. When he died millions mourned him. However, while Al-Sadat regained the Sinai, he sacrificed Egypt's pride, and nobody mourned him when he died. Although the Arabs are an old nation, our countries are still young. This is what makes national pride dear and very important to us, even more important than bread.

[Seale] You say that the uproar that took place in Egypt recently was an expression of anger against Camp David, while many believe that poverty was the reason. Do you really believe that the rebellion by the police was due to the peace treaty with Israel?

[Al-Shar'] Certainly there are economic and social reasons and I do not deny them. However, do not understimate the importance of the frustration, bitterness, and humiliation the Egyptians feel due to Israel. Israel has usurped the national pride of Egypt, which has stopped being a strong state with 50 million population. It has become an isolated state that cannot speak up.

When Israel invaded Lebanon and killed thousands of civilians and shelled and sieged Beirut for almost 80 days, Egypt was unable to issue even one strong statement as some African states did.

Anyhow, Sinai is not free, since Egypt's authority over Sinai is very limited. Israel was not compelled to have a buffer zone or a neutral zone to compensate for the limitation of Egypt's authority over Sinai. The Egyptian-Israeli treaty is causing upsurges and frustrations because it definitely is not a balanced and honorable peace.

We believe that the Camp David accords should be annulled.

[Seale] It seems you are saying: Let us go back to the period preceding Al-Sadat's visit to Jerusalem in 1977 and begin once again from that period.

[Al-Shar'] Exactly. It is important to understand our position. We harbor no hatred or hostility toward President Husni Mubarak. In his historic speech to the People's Council on 27 February President al-Asad described President Mubrak as his brother. We are afraid that if the Egyptian Government does not act quickly to abolish the [Camp David] accords and to restore the dignity of the people, Egypt will face a horrible explosion that will eliminate any hope for peace.

[Seale] Do you mean that the Egyptian-Israeli treaty, which is the only peace treaty signed between the Arabs and Israel, should be eliminated for the sake of peace itself?

[Al-Shar'] Yes. Egypt should be saved before it reaches the point of dangerous explosion. The way should be paved for genuine peace. For this reason it is necessary to remove the obstacle of the humiliating Camp David accords. We hope that President Mubarak will be brave enough to do that by himself as he did not make the accords. Once the accords are eliminated, then the other problems of Egypt, including the economic difficulties, can be dealt with in an atmosphere of calm and understanding.

[Seale] The West often accuses Syria of supporting terrorism. Do you support Abu Nidal [Sabri al-Banna]?

[Al-Shar'] You have raised a sensitive point. There is great misunderstanding. All should understand that we condemn all terrorist acts against innocent people, but at the same time we strongly support the struggle of Palestinians to liberate their occupied territories and we support Lebanese efforts to dismiss the Israeli invaders. The national resistance, whether it is Palestinian or Lebanese, is an absolutely legitimate action that should not be misunderstood as terrorism. Concerning Abu Nidal, he has an office for his organization in Damascus — a political and information office that has no connection with terrorism. We do not even allow the presence of a knife in this office, so how can we allow the presence of explosives ammunition, or any tools of violence in the office? Abu Nidal's organization knows that well. Also, we do not maltreat any Palestinian group that does not follow our course. All Palestinian factions have offices in Damascus, including Yasir 'Arafat's organization. It is no secret that we have an attitude against 'Arafat, but we do not want to interfere in the internal crisis facing the PLO. The Palestinian people alone have the right to choose their leaders. Yet, we should differentiate between our differences with 'Arafat and the importance of the PLO as a political organ representing the Palestinians. We will discuss the issue of the PLO with Jordan, because we believe that it is possible to reach clear understanding for the benefit of all.

[Seale] It would appear that any improvement in your relations with Jordan will be limited, as your friendship still looks fragile.

[Al-Shar'] Our rapproachement with Jordan is important but we are still in the stage of strengthening relations. And do not forget that we have to overcome 7 years of didferences. We made big progress in achieving an agreement on refusing direct negotiations and partial solutions, and in supporting the convening of an international conference.

[Seale] Can we expect a thaw in your relations with Baghdad?

[Al-Shar'] The mutual issues that seperate us from Iraq are very complicated, much more complicated than the ones with Jordan. So far there has been no improvement or progress worth mentioning.

[Seale] Do you share Iran's goal in overthrowing the Iraqi president?

[Al-Shar'] Regardless of our differences with Iraq, I will not publicly speak against any Arab regime. As I mentioned, at the beginning of the war we tried to stop the fighting but unfortunately Baghdad ignored us, because its forces at that time were inside Iran. Since that time I believe that our contacts with Iran have been in the interest of all Arabs, including Iraq itself. We obtained Iran's promise not to annex any Iraqi territories and not to expand the framework of the war in such a way that it extends to other Arab Gulf countries. This is a very important matter.

[Seale] Where does Syria stand between the two superpowers? Is your nonaligned stance not threatened by your close friendship with the Soviet Union and your conflict with the United States?

[Al-Shar'] We believe that the Soviet Union can and should play a big role in establishing a just and permanent peace in the region. Soviet policy is in line with the almost total international unanimity on the Arab-Israeli conflict.

The Soviet Union was one of the first countries to recognize Israel, but on the basis of dividing Palestine into two states — one Jewish and the other Palestinian. The Soviet Union still abides by this policy.

Thus, regardless of the policies between East and West, the Soviet Union is morally committed to containing Israel's expansionist policy.

In our close relations with the Soviet Union we cannot ignore the strategic alliance between Israel and the United States. It is an alliance according to which Israel receives almost unlimited arms supplies, as well as financial and political support.

However, despite our differences with the United States we believe in continuing the dialogue with Washington, because we believe the two mighty countries can play a vital role in establishing a just and permanent peace in our region.

Council of Ministers Hears Al-Kasm, Al-Shar' Reports

JN101604 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1520 GMT 10 Mar 86

[Text] Damascus, 10 Mar (SANA) — The Council of Ministers, during its weekly session today under Dr 'Abd al-Ra'uf al-Kasm, discussed regional developments and contacts pertaining to them.

Dr al-Kasm explained the positive and fruitful results of the recent Syrian-Turkish talks in Ankara held during his visit to Turkey. He announced that these talks covered bilateral cooperation in economics, trade, water, and other areas.

Dr al-Kasm said the two speeches President al-Asad delivered at the opening session of the People's Assembly and on the anniversary of the 8 March revolution and the important guidelines he gave on political, economic, social, administrative, and production issues must be implemented.

Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' submitted a detailed report to the council on his visits to the United Kingdom and Austria, visits seeking to clarify Syria's stand on regional and international issues.

Press Comment on Egypt's 'Uprising,' Murphy Tour

JN110855 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
0430 GMT 11 Mar 86

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "Revolutionary Egypt Will Make the Final Decision," *AL-BA'TH* says: Following the large-scale represssion operation in which the Armed Forces of the Egyptian regime were employed to confront the recent armed uprising, Cairo is witnessing a series of secret political and security measures to contain the effects of this uprising and prevent it from recurring and reaching its final aim of liberating Egypt from the chains of Camp David and restoring its pan-Arab role in the Arab march, which is hostile to imperialism and Zionism.

In his recent statement before the joint session of the People's Assembly and the Consultative Council, Mubarak ordered the members of both houses to refrain from discussing any subject pertaining to the uprising under the pretext of deferring the whole question to investigation and specialized courts. A number of Egyptian members of parliament attempted to flout this decision, affirming that they had the right to discuss the causes and results of the uprising. This led to a heated confrontation with the regime's henchmen with the result that the issue was deferred to the People's Assembly's court of values.

After discussing the dimensions of U.S. envoy Richard Murphy's tour, the paper says: While it is true that all that the U.S. and Egyptian official media said about the Murphy mission is no more than the usual headlines about discussing bilateral ties, U.S. aid to Egypt, and reactivating the so-called peace process in the Middle East, circles aware of U.S.-Egyptian relations are unanimous that the major part of Murphy's mission will be devoted to tackling the explosive situation in Egypt following the recent uprising and its repercussions.

All this means only one thing: The Mubarak regime does not want to learn its lesson or benefit from this harsh test and work to change the capitulation path which Egypt is forced to tread. It also means that Camp David and its dangers have become the last and final option. Egypt, which has repeatedly raised the voice of warning, will punish those who deviate from its will, compromise its freedom, and tamper with its pan-Arab conscience. It is the only decisionmaker.

On Murphy's tour and the impasse of U.S. action, *AL-THAWRAH's* editorial says: In an attempt to face the new developments in the region and circumvent their possible results, particularly the popular rejection of the Camp David agreements and the U.S. and Israeli presence in Egypt, the United States has again started to move in two directions. The first is sending fleets and aircraft carriers to the Mediterranean to terrify and blackmail the Arabs; the second is dispatching U.S. envoys to activate the so-called peace process in the region. Within this framework comes Richard Murphy's current tour of the region.

U.S. officials insist that Murphy does not carry any new ideas. This means that Murphy's mission is within the attempt to peddle U.S. ideas and plans based on U.S. opposition to any international conference and its rejection of the right of self-determination for the Palestinian people on their own soil and of establishing their independent state. The United States is also adhering to Camp David, direct negotiations, and formulas pertaining to U.S. Middle East Policy, such as the Reagan initiative. This shows that Murphy's mission, like its predecessors, will peddle capitulation policy in the region and raise the morale of the tools of this policy, particularly after the overwhelming armed uprising in Egypt, which constituted a fierce shock for Camp David and its partners, something which worried the United States and made it move fast to send its fleets, dispatch its envoys, and rely on the same policies which landed U.S. policy in its present impasse.

The United States ignores the fact that the policy of parading its forces and aircraft carriers will not succeed in promoting U.S. policy or extricating it from its impasse. The policy of capitulation and separate deals pushes the region toward further tension, complications, and explosiveness.

Syria defined its position when it reiterated its commitment to a just peace realized through implementing international resolutions; stopping Israel's aggressive, expansionist ambitions; liberating the occupied Arab territories; and restoring the Palestinian people's inalienable national rights. Any move outside this concept is bound to fail becuase it does not contribute to just peace but rather wrecks and circumvents peace. Within such moves come the futile tours by U.S. envoys.

Israeli Media Creating False Fear of Attack

JN101404 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
1130 GMT 10 Mar 86

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: During the past few days, Israel launched a large-scale propaganda campaign to give the impression that Syria is preparing to launch a war against Israel. Sometimes, Israeli media organs say the war will be comprehensive and at other times they say the war will be limited and aimed only at regaining the Golan from Israel.

Every day the Israeli media organs add fuel to the psychological war to achieve its objectives and carry out its mission. One day, these organs say Syria has moved its defensive surface-to- air missiles up to its border threatening the freedom of Israeli aviation; another day these organs claim Syria's remarks on strategic balance indicate that Syria intends to launch a war against Israel and does not want to reach a political settlement on the Middle East crisis.

At other times these organs explain President Hafiz al-Asad's remarks on the occupied Syrian Arab Golan territory, which will inevitably return to Syria, as an expression of Syrian intention to launch an offensive agaisnt Israel. At other times the Israeli media organs claim Syria's talk about adhering to Arab rights and to Arab territory means rejecting the peace process and efforts.

This Israeli use of psychological warfare is known, dated, and ineffective because on the one hand it is over used, and on the other what it projects is untrue and fabricated. The world today knows that the danger to peace security, and stability in the Middle East basically comes from Israel. This danger, in fact, is embodied in Israel's policy based on force not justice; violating laws instead of respecting them; challenging the United Nations rather than implementing its resolutions; on invasion, occupation, and annexation of lands rather than respecting the UN Charter's principles; and on the fait accompli policy contrary to law and truth; and on trying to impose it on others rather than restoring occupied territory and usurped rights to their owners.

Despite all Israel's psychological warfare methods, the world realizes that the UN records are full of condemnations of Israel, its aggressive wars, occupation of others' territories, its crimes against defenseless people, and its commitment to the annihilation of the Arab Palestinian people. No country in the world has been condemned at the United Nations more than Israel. The Israeli rulers, whether from the Labor of Herut, from the Alignment or Likud, have turned Israel into an embodiment of aggression, war, crime, and a violator of laws and a continued threat to peace and stability in the region. If the Israeli rulers, through their psychological warfare and media organs, say that Syria intends to launch an offensive to regain the Syrian Golan territory, such talk will remain a shot in the dark and will not annul the fact that Israel still practices war and aggression through its occupation of the Arab Syrian Golan territory as well as the West Bank, Gaza, southern Lebanon, and Tabah as well as through its rejection of UN resolutions related to the complete withdrawal from the occupied Arab territory and to respecting the Palestinian people's national rights.

The continuation of the Israeli occupation of others' territories, its disavowal of the Palestinian people's right to self-determination, and its use of force to carry out its schemes of regional expansion at the expense of others' lands are the cause of the continued war in the Middle East.

The Israeli rulers do not hide the fact that they have always been armed with U.S. help to guarantee the continuation of their military superiority over all the Arab countries and, consequently to impose their will over the Arabs. Until now, they have rejected all plans to establish a just and comprehensive peace based on the UN resolutions and charter and through an international conference. The Israeli rulers together with their U.S. allies are responsible for not achieving peace in the region until now and for keeping the threat of war prevailing in the region.

Syria has always announced that it supports a just and permanent peace in the region based on Israeli withdrawal from all occupied Arab territory and on enabling the Palestinian people to achieve their right to self-determination and to establish their national state in their territory.

Syria's stand cannot be changed, and neither can its determination to regain the occupied Syrian Golan, to achieve Israel's withdrawal from all Arab territories which it occupied by force, and to guarantee the Arab Palestinian people's right to self-determination. This determination stems from Syria's love for peace, truth, justice, and respect for the UN Charter and resolutions.

Syrian 'Limited Strike' in Golan Predicted

PM101257 London THE SUNDAY TELEGRAPH in English 9 Mar 86 p 2

[Helen Davis dispatch: "Israel Concern Over Syria"]

[Text] Jerusalem — There is growing concern in Jerusalem that Syria may be planning a limited strike against Israel to snatch back the strategic Golan Heights occupied by Israel in the Six Day War of 1967 and effectively annexed in 1981.

According to a highly placed political source in Jerusalem yesterday, the danger of an imminent Syrian offensive is "very realistic." Mr Yitzhaq Rabin, the Israeli defense minister, said last week that Israel was taking measures to meet the potential threat.

Since 1982, when the Syrian Army and Air Force were comprehensively defeated in Lebanon by the invading Israeli Army, Damascus has been engaged in a massive 2,268-million-pound a year arms build-up.

Israeli analysts agree that the Syrian leader may now have realized his goal of achieving "military parity" with Israel and is anxious to seize on the failure of the Jordanian peace efforts to propel Syria - and the radical states of the region - into a position of leadership in the Arab world.

They also point to the grave economic crisis facing Damascus largely as a result of the rearmament programme, which devours 30 per cent of the country's gross national product, and they believe that President Hafiz al-Asad may initiate hostilities from Damascus's problems.

Mr Shim'on Peres, the Israeli prime minister, is reported to have told the parliamentary Defence and Foreign Affairs Committee last week that Syria's economic crisis was fraught with peril for Israel and that Jerusalem must be alert to the dangers.

However, the analysts assess that even if the Syrian leader believes he has achieved military parity with Israel, he is unlikely to launch an all-out war, for Israel still possesses a substantial qualitative military and technological edge.

But it is possible that he will attempt a limited, lightning "land grab" to establish a stephold on the Golan Heights - which has a commanding view over much of Israel's fertile Galilee - and attempt to hold his ground until the international community imposes a ceasefire. From this position, they say, pressure could be brought to bear on Israel to enter into negotiations which might ultimately result in the entire territory being returned to Syrian control.

Such a military and political victory would represent a major coup for President al-Asad, propelling him to centre-stage in the Arab world and rallying other Arab states behind him.

Some analysts believe that even such moderate states as Egypt and Jordan might be drawn into a pan-Arab war coalition, capable of fielding a total of 3.5 million men.

Golan Druze Resume Activity in Support of Israel

TA101229 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 10 Mar 86

[Text] Israel's loyalists among the Golan Druze have resumed their public activity after a 3-year break that followed a religious and social boycott imposed on them by the Golan Heights clergymen and Syria supporters. The resumption of this activity was pointedly launched on the date on which Israel's opponents marked Ba'th Day in Syria. Our correspondent Yo'el Dar reports:

[Begin recording] [Dar] This gathering was initiated by [Likud] Knesset Member Amal Nasir al-Din, a resident of the village of Daliyat al-Karmil. By initiating this move, he responded to the call made by Israel's loyalists who wish to take part in political events in this country. The head of the Mas'adah local council, Muhsin Abu Salah, expressed regret over the stormy demonstration held on the Golan Heights during the prime minister's visit there 2 weeks ago.

[Abu Salah] I also blame the prime minister's aides for having advised him to visit the Golan Heights without advance notice. It is inconceivable that a prime minister decide on a visit from one day to the next. I, as head of the local council and a resident of the Golan Heights, learned about the visit only 2 hours in advance.

[Dar] The other speakers noted that the moderate circles seek to prove that not all 13,000 Druze who live on the slopes of Mt Hermon follow Syria and its adherents in this part of the country. At this stage it is difficult to predict the scope of this activity or how many Druze will join it, but in any case one can say that the moderate circles are currently experiencing an awakening following the silence we have witnessed over the past few years. Even today we were hard put finding people who would be ready to express their views in public, but the very fact that a gathering was held indicates a change in their world view, or perhaps heralds a weakening of the circles defined as radical. [end recording]

Thus far, 54 suspects have been rounded up in connection with the riots during the prime minister's visit in Majdal Shams. The police are trying to bring them to trial before their detention period expires.

Peres: Israel Prepared To Talk Peace With Syria

TA110936 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0930 GMT 11 Mar 86

[Text]Speaking in Ashdod this morning, Prime Minister Shim'on Peres said that Israel is prepared to sit down and discuss peace with the Syrians. Al-Asad is the most extremist Arab world leader and he is trying to amass power to defeat Israel. The Government of Israel, says the prime minister, will not counter Al-Asad's threats with its own threats. When we talk about peace, we are honest and sincere, said Prime Minister Peres in Ashdod today.

Warns Al-Asad 'We Will Fight Back'

TA111122 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 11 Mar 86

[Text] Prime Minister Peres says Israel is not seeking war with Syria, but Israel is taking seriously what Peres called the extremism of Syrian President al-Asad. In a speech to high school students, Peres said Israel would not react to recent threats made by Al-Asad regarding his intention to achieve strategic parity with Israel. The prime minister said: If someone threatens to harm us we will fight back; our tone may be restrained but our might is great.

Rabin Notes Rise in Terrorism Abetted by Syria

TA101423 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1415 GMT 10 Mar 86

[Text] Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin stated today that over the last month there had been a rise in the number of terrorist attacks from Lebanese territory and noted that Israel should change its methods accordingly to reduce the painful price we have been paying.

In a talk with our correspondent in the north Menahem Horowitz during a tour of the Lebanese border, Minister Rabin said that Syria had been encouraging and abetting terror against Israel. He added that Hizballah had so far not presented any demands in exchange for the return of the two kidnapped IDF soldiers.

MA'ARIV on Motives Behind Syrian Threat

TA101153 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 10 Mar 86 p 10

[Commentary by Moshe Zaq: "Al-Asad's Constraints"]

[Text] There is absolutely no justification for Israel helping the Syrian president increase the tension which from the start was aimed at rescuing him from his problems.

Hafiz al-Asad needs a warlike atmosphere in order to persuade his people to accept the economic sacrifices he is demanding of them. It is convenient for him to present the economic crisis as a result of a confrontation with Israel.

Al-Asad needs to flex his muscles in southern Lebanon in order to cover up Syria's failure to extend its authority to the hawkish communities in Lebanon. For this reason he has announced that many Syrians have volunteered to carry out suicide attacks in southern Lebanon.

Al-Asad needs this boastful talk about his plans for a decisive confrontation with Israel in order to persuade Saudi Arabia and the Gulf states not to reduce the amount of financial aid they grant Syria.

These needs force Al-Asad to predict a confrontation, but he does not act on his desires alone. He is an even-tempered and calculating general who is well aware of the danger such a confrontation involves. Therefore, he is cautious about implementing the threat he voiced to a foreign diplomat after the downing of the two Syrian planes to the effect that he has no choice but to retaliate against the Israeli action. He preferred to seek an alternative form of retaliation, and chose the deployment of missiles along the Syrian-Lebanon border. He did this only as long as the situation did not deteriorate into an immediate confrontation. He will take pleasure in the future, as he has in the past, in the fact that any remark he makes arouses anxiety in Israel and Western countries, as though we are on the verge of an Israeli-Syrian war.

Such anxiety, as was expressed yesterday in London's *THE SUNDAY TELEGRAPH*, serves Syria's interests. It presents Syria as the sole bearer of the flag of the struggle against Israel. It was reinforced by the remarks made by an IDF general who found it fitting to detail — in public — all the difficulties we would encounter in a war with Syria.

Al-Asad won, and his work — instilling fear — was done by others. He can act with self-restraint and avoid any direct fight with Israel, while at the same time enjoy the publicity in London and in Tel Aviv which improves his image in Syrian and Arab public opinion in general as the bearer of the flag of war with Israel who deserves appropriate economic support.

The plan for a Syrian conquest of the Golan Heights is not new. In fact, Syria's part in the Yom Kippur War was not intended to be comprehensive as, according to Al-Sadat's revelations after the war, on the 3d day of the fighting Al-Asad asked the Soviets to obtain a ceasefire for him. Were they capable, the Syrians would capture the Golan today. However, they are afraid of harsh Israeli reprisals and are therefore postponing this until they attain "strategic parity" with Israel.

Al-Asad raised the "strategic parity" formula as an alternative to Egypt's withdrawal from the cycle of war. Syria, which pushed for a war in 1967, was in no hurry to immediately join Egypt at the outbreak of the 6-Day War, and stood on the sidelines while Egypt was defeated. In the Yom Kippur War, too, Syria preferred that Egypt carry the main burden of the war. And now, after it has lost its Egyptian crutch, Syria prefers to postpone the confrontation with Israel, which it has declared its ultimate objective, until "strategic parity" is reached. Al-Asad knows that this is a difficult task. This is the reason why he first chose to try to bring Egypt back into the cycle of war. Al-Asad did not skimp and save on the amount of flattery he gave to Mubarak in order to persuade him to abrogate the Camp David accords, while at the same time promising him Syrian support in preventing Israel from retaking the Sinai.

Mubarak knows well what the Syrian promises are worth. For this reason he strongly rejected this generous offer which would have entangled Egypt not only with Israel, but also with the United States. Thus, in his last speech Al-Asad was forced to revert back to the "strategic parity" formula as the target date for a possible confrontation with Israel. That is to say, not immediately, but rather only once Syria is certain it has not only superiority in the number of tanks and artillery pieces, but also in its ability to fight using these means.

Al-Asad, then, admits that at the moment Syria does not have any guarantee of attaining the strategic parity which would give him the opportunity to stand up against Israel.

It is true that in terms of ideology, the Syrian Ba'th Party strives to eliminate Israel. Syria's strategy is based on a long-term confrontation but, in terms of tactics, Syria is adopting a cautious attitude in the short term. The steps Syria took against the PLO, and against 'Arafat in particular, helped and are helping Israel, and the moves should not always be regarded as running counter to Israeli interests.

At a certain stage an agreement could have been reached with Syria on the question of Lebanon, but, after the Israeli public displayed its impatience opposite Al-Asad's nerves of steel, the opportunity of finding a "modus operandi" — not a direct agreement, since that goes against Ba'th ideology, but an arrangement such as exists on the Golan — for Israel and Syria in Lebanon was lost. Al-Asad was very confident that he did not have to make any concessions to Israel in exchange for the Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon, and now he is undoubtedly boasting to his colleagues that he was right.

Despite the enormous gap in the basic positions of Damascus and Jerusalem, operative arrangements or post factum acceptance of peace along the border are possible as long as Syria is sure that Israel is strategically superior. As soon as Al-Asad reaches the conclusion that he has achieved strategic parity — either through massive Soviet support or through Israeli weakness — the danger of war might grow. Thus, in order not to foster this weakness, the country's leaders and IDF generals must cease helping Al-Asad by creating a war scare.

Al-Asad tried to explain to his people why they have to agree to austerity measures and belt-tightening. He chose the confrontation with Israel as the reason to justify the economic austerity measures he is imposing on his people. Israel does not have to assist him in this propaganda campaign. And there is no justification whatsoever for Jerusalem to serve as Damascus' national loudspeaker. Neither should it help create unnecessary panic, which is the guarantee for preventing surprise. [sentence as published]

Rabin, UN's Goulding Exchange Views on S. Lebanon

TA110954 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0937 GMT 11 Mar 86

[Text] In a meeting in Jerusalem with Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, UN Under Secretary General Marrack Goulding, the commander of all UN forces in the world [as heard], said that Israel's presence in southern Lebanon is allowing Shi'ite extremists to gain a foothold in southern Lebanon at the expense of the moderates. Mr Rabin responded by telling the UN officer that pointing the accusing finger at Israel on this matter is a misinterpretation of events. In the defense minister's opinion, developments in Beirut are a cause for greater concern in this regard than southern Lebanon.

Mr Goulding arrived in Israel after a visit to Lebanon, during which he reviewed UNIFIL's situation there. The defense minister told him that Israel will not officially demand that the UN force be removed from southern Lebanon but, at the same time, will not accept any change in its deployment.

Our military correspondent Shmu'el Tal points out that the UN under secretary general and the defense minister will meet again after Mr Goulding returns from a tour of the Arab countries.

Economics Minister on Settlement for Territories

TA091415 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 9 Mar 86 p 3

[Report by Pinhas 'Inbari]

[Text] In an interview to the East Jerusalem weekly *AL BAYADIR AL-SIYASI*, Economics and Planning Minister Gad Ya'aqobi said that Husayn is capable of making a political breakthrough with moderate Palestinians, but expressed doubts that the king is willing to do this. This is why Ya'aqobi proposed his plan for unilateral autonomy, although in his order of priorities he considers peace agreements between the two sides to take top priority. Ya'aqobi regards an interim arrangement as second in his order of priorities, and noted that the unilateral arrangements are applicable only because under existing circumstances the first two priorities cannot be achieved. He rejected the existing status quo and annexation outright.

For the more distant future, when peace arrangements are in effect, Minister Gad Ya'aqobi foresees the establishment of a common market or an economic confederation in the Middle East, although he opposes a political confederation.

Minister Ya'aqobi criticized the PLO for turning down earlier opportunities such as the Camp David accords, for example, or for not responding clearly to the Shemtov-Yariv formula [a three clause formula drawn by the Labor Party in the early 1970's, specifying the conditions which the PLO has to meet for Israel to be prepared to speak with it, including the recognition of the State of Israel and renunciation of the path of terror stipulated by the Palestinian charter]. In his opinion, had the PLO accepted this formula, or were it prepared to hold negotiations on the basis of mutual recognition, this organization would have put Israel in a very embarrassing position.

Concerning the unilateral arrangement, Ya'aqobi said that the Israeli security forces would remain in the region, and Israel would be responsible for the security of the Jewish residents of the settlements. At the beginning of the interview, he expressed his sorrow over the murder of Nabulus Mayor Zafir al-Masri.

50 West Bank Administrative Detainees Released

TA090947 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 9 Mar 86

[Text] Recently the military government in the territories released 50 administrative detainees because of the great overcrowding in the prison installations. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that dozens of young people who were detained after the murder of the Nabulus mayor were housed in tents in the Farah jail because of shortage of space. Some of them have been released.

Tourism Minister Tours Jerusalem Mosques

TA101405 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 10 Mar 86

[Text] The tourism minister has toured the Temple Mount mosques as the guest of the mufti of Jerusalem, Shaykh Sa'd al-Din al-'Alami. Minister Avraham Sharir visited the Dome of the Rock and the Al-Aqsa Mosques. The commander of the Jerusalem District Police Force showed him the Solomon's Stables complex, a site that has recently been a bone of contention. The mufti said Anwar al-Sadat's promise to renovate the mosques had not been fully kept. Minister Sharir promised to raise the matter on his visit to Egypt.

'Reagan Plan' To Aid Middle East States Proposed

TA091030 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 9 Mar 86 p 2

[Report from Washington by Erol Guiney]

[Text] Israel has suggested to the United States that a new "Marshall Plan" be organized — with the help of other Western industrialized powers — to assist self-proclaimed moderate Arab countries in the Middle East. Israel has suggested that this initiative be called the "Reagan Plan."

Israel would also be able to contribute to the plan, particularly in terms of its knowhow in the fields of agriculture, irrigation, science, and technology. The project in its entirety could contribute to the creation of a new and more positive atmosphere conducive to promoting peace efforts in the region.

Economics and Planning Minister Gad Ya'aqobi was the one who raised this plan during his meeting last Wednesday in Washington with U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz. Shultz's reaction was that "the plan is very interesting," but in his opinion, it should first be examined at the experts level.

It has been learned from knowledgeable sources that the plan was first raised by Prime Minister Shim'on Peres a few days ago in a talk with U.S. Ambassador to Israel, Thomas Pickering. Thus it is obvious that Secretary Shultz had some idea about the matter when Minister Ya'aqobi brought it up in more detail.

Israel's proposal calls for the participation of countries such as Japan, Canada, and West European countries. Israel, for its part, is not requesting any additional aid for itself in exchange for its participation in the "new Marshall plan."

The preliminary clarifications at the experts level — the Americans and Israel both agree that there is a need for these — necessitate contacts with several countries; therefore, one cannot anticipate when and under what conditions they will be held.

About one thing there is no doubt: The plan is a timely one. The collapse of oil prices is causing all Middle East countries serious difficulties, and the disquiet which this causes in the Middle East is a source of deep concern to the United States. Assistant Secretary of State Richard Murphy's visit to Egypt in the very near future is connected to this concern of Washington's. The United States is seeking to clarify how it can assist President Husni Mubarak and his government despite the harsh budgetary restrictions in the United States.

Murphy's visit to Israel, on the other hand, is aimed at clarifying the political developments in the wake of the split between Jordan's King Husayn and Yasir 'Arafat and his colleagues in the PLO leadership. Murphy will also want to know "what can be expected following the murder of the Nabulus mayor, Zafir al-Masri."

Nothing in the Middle East is simple. The plan which Minister Ya'aqobi raised in his meeting with Shultz can also be expected to encounter many obstacles.

Nisim: Murphy Efforts Stand No Chance 'Whatsoever'

TA101620 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 10 Mar 86

[Excerpt] Justice Minister Moshe Nisim has said that Egypt has not shown any signs that it wants to have a warm peace and there is no secure basis for continuing the peace process with Jordan. Nisim addressed himself to these political issues in an appearance before a rally of spokesmen on behalf of the Information Center. Our correspondent Lomor Nahum reports:

[Begin recording] [Nisim] Murphy has arrived in the region, has met the Egyptian president, and will also come to Isreal. To my regret, and I am really sincere about it, these moves do not stand any chance whatsoever.

[Nahum] As we heard, the justice minister does not see any breakthrough for a political arrangement in the Middle East. As for the cold peace with Egypt, Nisim noted that it does not fulfill the Camp David accords and it poses impossible conditions for a summit meeting between Shim'on Peres and Husni Mubarak.

[Nisim] There are no signs that Egypt wants to maintain a warm peace. If Egypt wants to return to the Arab world, and it seems this is what it wants, Tabah will not be the issue that will warm peace. This is very regrettable because it should have been a model for a possible continuation of the peace process and for an end to the war in the Middle East.

Reportage on Herut Conference in Session

Levi Supporters Riot, Prevent Vote

TA101535 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 10 Mar 86

[Text] There is violence at the Herut conference. Young supporters of David Levi have taken over the conference dais and turned the podium and tables over in order to prevent a vote being held for the election of the chairman of the presidium. Minister David Levi is opposed to the vote until the participation of 42 Druze and Bedouin delegates is approved. There is now rioting in the hall and we are going over to our correspondent Amnon Nadav in the Tel Aviv Fairgrounds in Tel Aviv.

[Nadav] [shouts and screams heard in background] Many pale people, including, and mainly, Herut Movement leaders, are now wandering around the hall helplessly. They do not know how to regain control over what is happening here in the arena. Rioting is going on in various corners of this giant hall. From time to time there is fighting between the supporters of David Levi and the others. There is no voting.

People are trying to restore order on the dais, which has been overturned. When David Levi's supporters climbed up onto the stage they turned tables over, threw microphones around, and people are now trying to take control and restore order, but all the hundreds of representatives have left their places. They are collecting around the stage.

The dispute is over the question of completing the number of representatives. David Levi climbed up demonstratively and with a great deal of anger demanded the incorporation of the 42 Druze and Bedouin representatives who, he claims, have been rejected purely and solely because they are David Levi's supporters.

As I said, the rioting in the hall continues. People are trying to restore order and bring a vote and a decision on the election of the chairman of the presidium, between Moshe Qatzav, who is supported by the Shamir-Arens camp, and Eliyahu Ben-Elisar, who is supported by the Levi-Sharon camps. Now I will return you to the Jerusalem studio from the Tel Aviv Fairgrounds.

Levi List Approved; Voting Begins

TA101815 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 10 Mar 86

[Text] The Herut conference representatives have just approved the list of young Druze and Bedouins who are supporters of the Levi camp, in order to make their participation in the voting possible. Our correspondents Amnon Nadav and Hayim Zissowitz report that the representatives approved the choice of each one of the representatives, mainly with applause, and the voting has now begun.

A source close to Herut Movement Chairman Menahem Begin, has said that Mr Begin sent his greetings to the conference and Yitzhaq Shamir on his own initiative without Mr Shamir having invited such a letter. This was said in reaction to Minister David Levi's claim that as long ago as 3 weeks ago Yitzhaq Shamir solicited the greetings from Mr Menahem Begin.

Shamir-Arens Camp Wins 1st Victory

TA110528 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 11 Mar 86

[Text] The Shamir-Arens camp scored the first victory at the Herut Movement Convention when its candidate, Minister Moshe Qatzav, was elected chairman of the convention presidium, overcoming Knesset Member Eliyahu Ben-Elisar, the Sharon-Levi camp's candidate, by a small edge. Our correspondent Shalom Oren, who was present at the convention hall all night, reported that the ballot counting was completed early this morning, 5 hours after the voting ended. The election committee discussed various issues pertaining to the legality of the vote and invalid ballots between midnight and 0300, and our correspondent notes that the deliberations were violent at times. As stated, Minister Qatzav won with 930 votes against 876 votes for Ben-Elisar.

The conference deliberations will resume at 1000, and two more contests are expected: Ari'el Sharon against Beni Begin for the post of mandate committee chairman, and Moshe Arens versus David Levi for the post of chairman of the standing committee. Deputy Minister Roni Milo, of the Shamir camp, told our correspondent Hayim Zissowitz this morning that at the moment the camps are trying to reach an accord on the manning of these two posts, in order to avoid another contest in the conference.

E. Jerusalem Electric Claims Government Owes Money

TA081859 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 8 Mar 86

[Text] East Jerusalem Electric Company workers have called off their sanctions after the company's directors declared the Israeli Government owes them $9 million. Several days ago the workers barricaded themselves inside the main office of the East Jerusalem company, protesting plans by the Israeli Electric Corporation to take over the assets of the East Jerusalem facility since it owes the Israeli company $11 million.

At an emergency board meeting today directors of the East Jerusalem Electric Company claimed the Israeli Government owes the firm $9 million because of government interference in their running of the firm. They are to bring the claim to Energy Minister Moshe Shahal in a meeting tomorrow. Observers see this as an attempt to get the government to find a solution to the debt problem.

Shahal Rejects 'Loan' Request

TA101237 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 10 Mar 86

[Text] The East Jerusalem Electric Corporation has asked the Israeli Government to give it a loan so that it could defray its debts to the Israeli Electricity Company which have already reached the $12-million mark. Energy Minister Moshe Shahal has turned down this request and is still waiting for the debts to be paid. Our correspondent Elihu Ben-On reports:

Although another round of talks has taken place, it is still impossible to see any solution to the question of who will pay the debts. The chairman of the Arab company's board of executives, Anwar Nusaybah, was the one to request an urgent meeting with Minister Shahal, seeking a revocation of the lien injunction issued by the court against the company's money and other assets — a lien which, incidentally, has not yet been implemented.

The meeting was very much to the point, but the director of the Arab company and the committee members did not bring any practical proposal for paying the debt, and sought a 2-month grace period to try to raise the money in Jordan. Mr Nusaybah repeated that if the energy minister had permitted him to raise electricity fees, the company would have made a $9-million profit. He therefore demanded that $9 million be struck off the debt which today stands at $12 million. The energy minister turned down the proposal, and again expressed the government's policy of nonintervention in the company's affairs.

The Arab company's attorney, Shlomo Tussia-Kohen, requested a loan similar to that being given to Solel Boneh. The energy minister rejected the request, saying that Solel Boneh has submitted an economic rehabilitation plan that involves the laying off of personnel, while the East Jerusalem company objects to cutting down on its manpower. The energy minister explained once again that he would not intervene in the legal proceedings and that the company must pay its debts in a few days.

Sudanese Premier Visits OAU Liberation Committee

EA082057 Dakar PANA in English 1658 GMT 8 Mar 86

[Text] Dar es Salaam, 8 Mar (SHIHATA/PANA) — Sudanese Prime Minister, Dr al-Jazuli Dafʿallah, visited the Secretariat of the Liberation Committee of the OAU in Dar es Salaam today.

Welcoming the premier, the executive secretary of the Liberation Committee, Brigadier Hashim Mbita, described the visit as a source of encouragement and special honor to the struggling people in southern Africa.

Mbita said financial contributions to the liberation committee was "the minimum independent Africa could do for those who are daily sacrificing their lives for the freedom and dignity of Africa."

He said that, although the total contributions of the OAU member-states could only meet a small proportion of the needs of the national liberation movements, it remains the reflection of free Africa's political commitment, which was a motivating factor among the freedom fighters.

The Sudanese prime minister said in reply that his presence in the Executive Secretariat is symbolic of Sudan's concern of and support for the liberation struggle in southern Africa.

Signing the visitors' book, Dr Dafʿallah said, "This is to express our appreciation and support for your ardent efforts. Long live Africa — free and united."

The Sudanese premier, who arrived in Dar es Salaam on Friday, is expected to leave for home today.

PANA To Launch New Information Campaign

AB091350 Dakar PANA in English 1720 GMT 8 Mar 86

[Text] Dar es Salaam, 8 March (SHIHATA/PANA) — The PAN AFRICAN NEWS AGENCY (PANA), is to launch an information campaign strategy to counter the South African aggression against Frontline States.

The strategy will involve the holding of a workshop to educate press organizations on the constraints of the situation in South Africa.

PANA director general, Auguste Mpassi-Muba, said on arrival in Dar es Salaam today.

The Zambian President Kenneth Kaunda has offered to hold the workshop in Lusaka, he said.

PANA director general said the strategy will also involve equipping the southern Africa PANA regional pool in Lusaka with personnel, equipment and the stationing of a PANA correspondent in Gaborone, Botswana to observe more closely the development of southern Africa.

The PANA director general also said the headquarters of the agency will also increase monitoring of the sub-region and reinforce relations with liberation movements in the region. On the agency's performance Mpassi-Muba said all except the Lusaka PANA regional pool were paralysed by communication and technical problems.

On contributions the director-general said since January this year when he took over, six countries had paid their contribution out of the 40 signatories of the PANA convention. Those who have paid are Algeria, Burkina Faso, Mauritania, Lesotho, Nigeria and Zambia.

On arrival at the airport Mpassi-Muba was welcomed by the TANZANIA NEWS AGENCY (SHIHATA) director, Nkwabi Ngwanakilala. He has visited Zimbabwe, Zambia, Kenya and will proceed to Addis Ababa to complete his tour on this region.

OAU Official on African Satellite System

AB081357 Dakar PANA in English 1311 GMT 8 Mar 86

[Text] Harare, 8 March (ZIANA/PANA) — Decisions on the regional African satellite communications system should not put to mortgage the future of Africa, an official of the Organisation for African Unity, said in Harare yesterday.

The chief of communications in the OAU, Mr Ata Koram, told delegates at the fifth conference of experts of transport and communications, being held at the Harare International Conference Centre, that although the European Economic Community's offer to undertake a study on the satellite was appreciated, the conditions of the offer were "too restrictive."

Mr Koram said the Inter-Agency Coordinating Committee (IACC) on the regional African satellite had made "a satisfactory" effort to mobilise the 6 million U.S. dollars needed to finance the study.

He said the EEC had made an offer of a grant with the condition that only African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) and EEC consultants and experts would be directly recruited by the community for the execution of the study. The EEC also demanded that members of the IACC were not used for the direction and supervision of the study.

"These conditions may be prejudicial to the implementation phase which should be carried out as a result of open international bidding.

"Decisions on the study should not put to mortgage the future of Africa, especially when the pan-African scope of the study and its very important economic, technical and political implications are taken into account," said Mr Koram.

He said already a sum of 715 [word indistinct] dollars had been committed to the undertaking of the study, by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the International Telecommunications Union (ITN) and UNESCO. The African Development Bank would finance 95 percent of the cost, he said.

ALGERIA

Bendjedid Cited on Internal, External Situation

LD101141 Algiers APS in English 1010 GMT 10 Mar 86

[Text] Algiers, 10/3/86 (APS) — The president of the Republic, FLN party Secretary General, Chadli Bendjedid gave, on the occasion of the official installation of the Permanent Secretariat of the FLN party Central Committee, important orientations about the role of the party, the internal situation and the international situation characterized by a very serious economic crisis.

The head of state first dealt with the completion of institutional structures and the clarification of the political vision stressing the importance of the enrichment of the National Charter and its adoption by the popular masses. "The National Charter," he said, "is our sole ideological reference since it expresses the aspirations of the popular masses and reflects their will".

The FLN party secretary general spoke for a long time on the role of the party in the orientation, the awareness, the mobilization, the training of citizens and in the control and follow up and in the struggle against negative phenomena such as squandering or reactionary thinking. Analyzing the structure of society, the head of state stressed the importance of youth which, he said is the guarantee of the continuity of the revolution. In this context, he insisted on the necessity to create adequate conditions for the mobilization of a greater number of young university and institutes graduates.

Concerning the present economic crisis, President Chadli Bendjedid dealt with its various aspects especially effects on the Third World. In this context, he underlined that the national economy was comparatively secure thanks to well thought political measures taken and the efforts of all. The head of state stressed the necessity of self reliance and expressed his confidence in the Algerian people's unshakable will.

After dealing with international questions and the position of Algeria about them, the president of the Republic reiterated the fundamental principles of the Algerian policy based on the will of setting up the Great Maghreb where concord, progress and prosperity will prevail. We must he said, start by restoring a climate of confidence and eliminate all the existing problems.

APS Reviews Ibrahimi's Gulf, Southern Africa Trips

LD082246 Algiers APS in English 1535 GMT 8 Mar 86

[Text] Algiers, 8/3/86 (APS) — The foreign affairs minister Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi has recently made a tour in Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates and the Arab Republic of Yemen where he handed messages from President Chadli Bendjedid to heads of these states.

This tour in Arab Gulf countries and North Yemen has a particular significance because of its nature, the time in which it took place and its objective. This tour is an act of Algeria's identification with the Arab cause and the struggles waged both in the Maghreb and in the Mashrek. The time in which it took place is a significant choice of Algeria to show its concern about the problems the Arab world is facing.

In addition, together with the one made recently in austral Africa, this tour is significant about Algeria's will to be present and play its role wherever freedom is challenged by considering itself part and parcel of fronts constituted to face hegemonic ambitions of systems of racial and colonial domination, be they Zionism or apartheid. The two tours are also an indication of Algeria's belief in the necessity of a strategic Arab-African alliance which is imposed by similar challenges Arabs and Africans are facing. Algeria remains attached to Arab and African causes.

FLN Delegation Returns From CPSU Congress

LD081530 Algiers APS in English 1022 GMT 8 Mar 86

[Text] Moscow, 8/3/86 (APS) — The F.L.N. party delegation which took part in 27th Congress of the Soviet Communist Party was back from Moscow Friday. The FLN party which was invited to the congress was led by the head of the C.C. Permanent Secretariat, Mohamed Cherif Messaadia which went to Moscow on February 24. In the sidelines of the congress, Messaadia had many contacts with Soviet officials and high personalities invited to the (?congress).

The Algerian delegation was seen off by the vice chairman of the monitoring commission of the Soviet Communist Party, Ivan Constov [name as received], the Algerian ambassador to the U.S.S.R. and other high, officials in the Soviet Communist Party.

Foreign Currency Allowances Slashed in Algeria

NC091507 Paris AFP in English 1456 GMT 9 Mar 86

[Excerpts] Algiers, March 9 (AFP) — Algerians have had their foreign currency allowance for holidays abroad effectively slashed by half, and under-18's have been deprived of it altogether, it was officially announced here Sunday. The allowance, the equivalent of 1,000 dinars (about 220 dollars) in the currency of the country to be visited, can now only be obtained once every two years, instead of once a year.

The dinar being a non-convertible currency, the holiday allowance is the only legal means for an ordinary citizen to obtain foreign exchange. More than 800,000 Algerians are estimated to have taken advantage of it last year, with 630,000 of them going to France. On Saturday a reliable source said that a further 1,000-dinar allowance to enable private citizens to import spare parts from abroad had also been withdrawn.

Further Details

LD091509 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 9 Mar 86

[Text] The Ministry of Finance has taken new measures regarding tourism which limit the value of the allowance allocated to citizens traveling abroad to 100 Algerian dinars in hard currency once every 2 years. [Allowance was formerly 100 dinars per year.] In compliance with this measure, citizens who received this allowance during the current year will not be entitled to it in 1987. Those who did not receive it during the current year will be entitled to it next year.

On the other hand, the measures include children who are under 18, since they are not entitled to receive this allowance whether they have personal passports or are registered on those of their parents. These measures will come into effect as of 9 March 1986.

LIBYA

Al-Qadhdhafi Receives Message From Lebanese CP Head

LD101427 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1330 GMT 10 Mar 86

[Text] The leader of the revolution has received a message from Lebanese Communist Party Secretary General George Hawi over the past 2 days [as heard] in which Hawi briefed him on the plot against Lebanese progressive and national forces.

U.S. Daily Cited on U.S. 'Terrorist' Plans, Budget

LD101052 Tripoli JANA in English 0946 GMT 10 Mar 86

[Text] Washington, Juamada Thani 28 March 10, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — The U.S. daily, *THE WASHING TON POST*, out yesterday disclosed one of the terrorist acts planned by the White House (sic) [JANA notation] under the behest of CIA that coordination was achieved to carry out terrorist clandestine operations against some Third World countries that refused to accept U.S. hegemony and stood against its imperialist objectives worldwide.

The daily has pointed out that that group of people who had concocted these schemes comprised officials from the so-called White House, U.S. State Department, the Pentagon and elements from CIA including Dir William J Casey -- one of the most eager people to carry out terrorist operations against the peoples in the world at large. The paper adds that the budget that has been approved for such terorist organ totalls annually 500 million dollars.

Weekly on Policy of U.S., 'Reactionary' Regimes

LD102114 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1830 GMT 10 Mar 86

[Text] Tripoli, 10 Mar (JANA) — The weekly *AL-ZAHF AL-AKHDAR* which is published here, today printed an analysis on the savage imperialist onslaught against the Jamahiriyah being hatched with the participation of regional reactionary parties.

The paper, which is published by the revolutionary committees, said: The matter is very clear, namely, that a new imperialist reactionary onslaught is being hatched now against the Jamahiriyah with the blessings of regional reactionary parties, as the following recent events and movements show:

1. The return of U.S. fleets and warships opposite the Libyan Arab shores to hold new provocative exercises during the next few days;
2. The state of maximum alert being witnessed at the U.S. bases in the Mediterranean basin region which represent bases of support and back-up bases for the U.S. fleets;
3. The threats by U.S. officials to employ the military option following the failure of political and economic pressures against the people of the Jamahiriyah;
4. The alliance between the United States and a number of regimes adjacent to the Jamahiriyah, and the visits by U.S. military and civilian officials to those countries, while a simultaneous deliberate deterioration in Libyan-U.S. relations is taking place;
5. The French-U.S. intervention in Chad and their intensified fanning of the flames of civil war there; and
6. The tendentious propaganda campaign and strong hatred of the imperialist circles and their trumpets in Cairo and Baghdad against the people of the Jamahiriyah.

All of these are proof that a criminal plan has been drawn up against the people of the Jamahiriyah and the roles in it have been distributed among the parties that have adopted the Western imperialist views which are hostile to the revolution of the Libyan masses.

The paper wonders: What is the justification for these regimes to join and participate in the aggression against the Arabs of Libya at a time when the U.S. Government masses three aircraft carriers and scores of warships opposite the Libyan Arab shores and puts its bases in certain Mediterranean countries on alert, and at a time when it declares economic war against the Jamahiriyah and exerts pressure on all the states subservient to it to join in these aggressive measures? What also is the justification at a time when the tendentious propaganda campaigns are being escalated against the Arabs of Libya and their great revolution.

Has the United States suddenly abandoned its enmity to the Arab nation and its revolutionary forces and retreated from its policy that governs its aggressive stances against the Arabs?

Has it paid the price of its crimes and bombs that have fragmented the bodies of our brothers in Palestine, Lebanon, Egypt, Syria, and Tunisia, so that its envoys can be received, and pin medals on the chest of its sailors and are its media mouthpieces crying out for a friendship with them?

AL-ZAHF AL-AKHDAR explains that when a reactionary regime is threatened, U.S. officials rush to the Arab region to reassure and rescue it, and declare a state of emergency at their bases and their fleets. And when the Zionist planes bomb an Arab capital wreaking havoc upon its inhabitants or invade Arab villages in southern Lebanon, the Americans use their veto at the UN Security Council to prevent a condemnation of the Zionists for their savage crimes; and those regimes friendly to the United States shamelessly issue deceitful statements and sinful frail deceptions about a false friendship with the Americans.

7. We are not surprised that these regimes, motivated by their black hatred, ask the Americans and insist that they direct a lightning strike against the Jamahiriyah, and that they offer

the Americans facilities for this, because they do not know that the Arab nation has an entity and a presence; they do not know that the Arab nation may emerge victorious or defeated; and they do not know that the people of the Jamahiriyah are politically, economically, and militarily besieged by the imperialists with the blessings of the United States, because they are proud that the United States classifies them as slaves with various ranks in exchange for opening their countries to the invading U.S. armies.

The newspaper stresses that it is necessary to emphasize some points, including:

1. Those regimes now conspiring against the people of the Jamahiriyah have lost their legitimacy and their existence has lost its meaning and justification, and preserving them now is a preservation of defeat and insistence upon humiliation which is inflicted upon the Arabs as a result of the presence of those models -- which are U.S. hirelings -- and which run after authority and fight over their survival;
2. The Libyan Arabs have the right to destroy the imperialist interests in those hireling countries because they are point of support for the Americans in their aggressive schemes against the people of the Jamahiriyah;
3. The Libyan Arabs have the right, if necessary, to trigger World War III to exact revenge on those planning our destruction and conspiring against our freedom, revoluton, and future;
4. The Libyan Arabs also have the right to involve the regimes, the hirelings of the United States in the region, by any form in the confrontation with it [United States] if there is a war against the Jamahiriyah, and they have the right to transform the Mediterranean region into hell.

It is the same legitimacy by which the imperialist and reactionary forces provoke the revolution in the Jamahiriyah, and it confirms the principle of reciprocity. "The one who starts is the one who is wrong," even if they pile pyramids of civilian and military treaties with these lackey and hireling regimes.

The newspaper continues:

1. A clash with the Arab regimes is a natural thing because they abandoned their pan-Arab commitments and went back on their word to their poeples regarding the Pan-Arab stances calling for liberation, unity and resisting the Hebrew crusading presence in the Arab homeland;
2. We do not understand the meaning of the continuous visits by U.S. envoys to the Arab region and the joint coordination between the regimes, neighboring the Jamahiriyah, and the U.S. terrorist administration except if they are directed at the shameful purpose of coordinating and preparing a treacherous aggression against the Libyan Arabs whose raise their voices in defiance of the Arab nation's enemies after the Libyan Arab people restored their authority, revolution, and weapons from the usurpers.

The revolutionary force warns those regimes that they are playing with fire by beating the drums of war against the people of the Jamahiriyah and the Arab nation. This is a fire which will burn their fragile paper thrones. The revolutionary force places on the shoulders of these regimes the responsibility of what might happen and what might result as a result of any aggressive stance against the Arab people in Libya. They must find a convincing reason for their alliance with the enemies of the Arab nation and those who strangle its freedom, or which can even justify the reception of these people on Arab soil.

Sudanese Defense Minister Departs 10 March

LD101521 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 1300 GMT 10 Mar 86

[Voice of the Revolutionary Committees]

[Text] Sudanese Minister of Defense Major General 'Uthman 'Abdallah Muhammad, departed from Tripoli this morning at the conclusion of a 3-day visit to the Jamahiriyah.

Continuing Reportage on Fighting in Chad

Clash Between GUNT, French Forces

LD091235 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0710 GMT 9 Mar 86

[Text] Bardai 9 Mar JANA — The GUNT [National Union Transition Government] minister of information said that clashes have occurred between GUNT forces and French forces, which have been stationed in Chad to protect the rebel Habre.

In a statement broadcast by Radio Bardai yesterday, the minister said that GUNT forces clashed with French forces in Oum-Chalouba and Kalait on 5 March. He added that the French forces used Jaguar and Mirage fighters during these clashes, in addition to heavy land weaponry, among which were Milan missiles. He stated that a French armored contingent composed of 50 Cascavel armoured cars were deployed in these clashes. The Chadian minister disclosed that the French forces used some weapons, which are internationally banned, in the towns of Oum-Chalouba and Kalait. He said "We have evidence on that."

Troops, Supplies Leave Zaire

LD082252 Tripoli JANA in English 1445 GMT 8 Mar 86

[Text] Paris, Jumada Athani 26, March 8, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY -- Reliable sources revealed that thousands of troops including white soldiers left Zaire for Chad from 20th to 28th February. The sources pointed out that armoured vehicles and Land Rover and Toyota cars as well as ambulances and lorries loaded with weapons and ammunition also left Zaire for Chad in the same period.

MAURITANIA

Joint Commission Meeting With Tunisia Opens 10 March

AB101946 Paris AFP in French 1506 GMT 10 Mar 86

[Text] Nouakchott, 10 Mar (AFP) — Tunisia and Mauritania on Monday reiterated their adherence to the treaty of fraternity and concord they co-signed with Algeria, on the occasion of the opening of the grand joint Tunisia-Mauritania commission in Nouakchott. This union, stressed the two leaders of the delegation, "is not directed against anybody," but "constitutes the starting point for interdependence among among Maghreb countries."

The grand commission, which is meeting for the first time since it was set up in July 1985, will discuss documents on cooperation between the two countries in the field of education, cadre training, industry, mining, and fishing. Concerning fishing, the principle of the establishment of a joint Mauritania-Tunisia company was agreed upon during the recent visit to Nouakchott by Tunisian Prime Minister Mohamed Mzali.

SUDAN

Siwar al-Dhahab Holds News Conference

Notes TMC Accomplishments

JN101539 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1444 GMT 10 Mar 86

[Text] Khartoum, 10 Mar (SUNA) — At a news conference held here today, Transitional Military Council [TMC] Chairman General 'Abd al-Rahman Siwar al-Dhahab listed the accomplishments of the TMC during the last stage of the transitional period, explaining that the TMC, with the Council of Ministers' help, managed to entrench the base of real democracy in the country by issuing the 1985 Constitution. He added that the two councils issued the Constitution and complied with its provisions, as well as with the National Charter, affirming that there was complete and sincere cooperation between the two councils in this regard, despite attempts by some tendentious and irresponsible sides to cast doubts.

Gen Siwar al-Dhahab pointed out that the government and the people, during the transitional period, managed to contain famine in many parts of the country, explaining that the dimensions of that famine became obvious only after the death and the diplacement of many citizens. He also praised fraternal and friendly countries, such as Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Jordan, Kuwait, Iraq, Libya, the UAE, and Syria, as well as the United States, the EEC, charity organizations, and international organizations, for their assistance to Sudan.

Gen Siwar al-Dhahab pointed to the election law as one of the outstanding accomplishments. He also pointed to what has been done during this period concerning organizing the administration of regions, forming a transitional council to run them, and establishing ministries there, in addition to granting comprehensive amnesty to all those accused of previous political crimes and to all those who carried arms against the former regime, as well as the cease-fire by the Armed Forces, except in cases of self-defense.

He explained that the government has made effective steps regarding the liquidation of the May regime symbols. He pointed out that most of the committees formed by the attorney general to interrogate elements accused of corrupting the political and economic situation have concluded their work.

Gen Siwar al-Dhahab pointed to Sudan's participation in the African and Arab summit conferences held during the transitional period. He explain that Sudan's loud voice announced the creation of a democratic system thanks to the uprising of the people and their Armed Forces. Sudan, he said, defined a foreign policy based on nonalignment principles, promoting world peace, resolving international and regional disputes through peaceful means, and holding dialogue and promoting relations with all peoples, adding that the main purpose of the foreign policy decisions was to remove the chill created by the defunct regime in relations with some neighboring and fraternal countries and to resume diplomatic relations with these countries.

Regarding integration with Egypt, Gen Siwar al-Dhahab affirmed that the government paid special attention to this issue by sending successive high-ranking delegations to Egypt. He also touched on his visits to fraternal Arab countries, especially Saudi Arabia, praising His Majesty King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz for his support for Sudan. He also touched on his visit to the UAE, Oman, and Zaire, explaining that his visits, as well as those of the prime minister, the TMC members, and the ministers to many Arab and African countries, were positive and fruitful.

Discusses Garang Operations, Elections

JN101853 Khartoum SUNA in English 1752 GMT 10 Mar 86

[Text] Khartoum, Mar 10, SUNA — Transitional Military Council "TMC" Chairman General Siwar al-Dhahab affirmed that information available to the Peoples Armed Forces showed that Rebel leader John Garang had massed at least 40 thousand troopers in Bahr al-Ghazal Region and encircled Rumbek Town with the aim to hinder general elections on the said region.

The decision to evacuate Rumbek Town was issued by the region's military governor to preserve citizens' lives and also due to severe pressure exerted by the rebels, using highly modern and sophisticated arms, Siwar al-Dhahab said.

Meanwhile, he pointed out that the TMC and Cabinet had made efforts to meet Garang, but he said, their attempts were crowned with failure. He, however, expressed appreciation over the dialogue scheduled to be held during the coming days in Addis Ababa with the rebels, saying that the meeting would serve all the country.

On the question of arming some tribes, Siwar al-Dhahab expressed the TMC's refusal over the move and added, however, that due to the sporadic attacks by the rebels an agreement was reached to arm some government employees and twelve of guards in the regions where the attacks occurred.

Asked whether there would be a general mobilization when rebel leader Garang refuses dialogue, the TMC chairman said there would be no motive for general mobilization, adding that the interim government would wait for the results of the meetings being carried out between the rebels and the National Alliance for the Salvation of the Country.

However, he affirmed that the government will try hard and by all means to preserve the holding of elections.

Asked about the objective of the defence minister's visit to Libya, Siwar al-Dhahab explained that the visit's aim was to hold consultation and for the same purpose, he went on saying, several TMC and Cabinet members had paid visits to several countries. He also said the defence minister's visit was not for the aim of asking for weapons.

On elections, he said both TMC and Cabinet members have the right to present their candidacies to the elections, adding that the TMC was still committed to its decision to step down at the end of the interim period and transfer power to people.

No Preconditions for Dialogue With Garang

JN101750 Khartoum SUNA in English 1734 GMT 10 Mar 86

[Text]Khartoum, Mar 10, SUNA — TMC Chairman General Siwar al-Dhahab today welcomed any agreement that would lead to peace and safeguard the country's national unity.

Referring to the efforts exerted in Addis Ababa for reaching peaceful agreement with the Sudanese People's Liberation Army "SPLA" leader John Garang, the TMC chairman said that we have no preconditions for dialoguing with Garang except the immediate cease of fire.

In a press conference held today Siwar al-Dhahab voiced the necessity of ending the fighting and working sincerely to bring about an agreement to be accepted by all parties.

Views SPLA Operations Escalation

JN101823 Khartoum SUNA in English 1737 GMT 10 Mar 86

[Text] Khartoum, Mar 10, SUNA — Fourty thousand of the Sudanese Peoples' Liberation Army "SPLA" elements were advancing towards (Gogorial) and Rumbek regions, something that obliged Lakes Province governor to order the evacuation of Rumbek Town "TMC" General Siwar al-Dhahab announced in a press conference held here Monday.

Siwar al-Dhahab added that the SPLA started, from last December to escalate its operations instead of responding to the government call for peaceful dialogue.

He further said that the SPLA leader, instead, is going on recruiting new elements, getting use of facilities extended to the SPLA from some neighboring countries.

Warns Against 'War of Words'

JN101830 Khartoum SUNA in English 1740 GMT 10 Mar 86

[Text] Khartoum, Mar 10, SUNA — Political squabbling and war of words in the newspapers are the means for the ignition of violence which will menace democracy and freedom, TMC Chairman Siwar al-Dhahab said in his conference today. In an apparent reference to the National Alliance for the Salvation of the Country, Siwar al-Dhahab pointed out that such war words were not only confined to the political parties but was also directed against the TMC and the Cabinet.

Opting to violence by words or gun will eventually lead to undermining the democratic system in Sudan, he concluded.

Says Some Party Leaders 'Belittle Law'

JN101552 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1452 GMT 10 Mar 86

[Text] Khartoum, 10 Mar (SUNA)— At a press conference held here today, General 'Abd al-Rahman Siwar al-Dhahab, chairman of the Transitional Military Council, pointed out that among some leaders of political parties and organizations are elements which resort to disorder and belittle law and order by instigating simple-hearted people. He said that by this irresponsible behavior, these elements threaten the homeland's unity and foment sedition, division, and fragmentation. He explained that this cannot be neglected because this is fully rejected by any responsible government and that security authorities cannot ignore it because this undermines the law and gravely threatens the democratic situation.

Gen Siwar al-Dhahab appealed to these elements to reconsider their stands, to examine their consciences, and to talk responsibly and exercise self-control. He pointed out that Sudan is a homeland for all in which no one is better than anyone else, and that each person should improve himself by serving the public interest.

Prime Minister Daf'allah Returns From Tanzania

JN091352 Khartoum SUNA in English 0910 GMT 9 Mar 86

[Excerpt] Khartoum, Mar 9 (SUNA) — Prime Minister Al-Jazuli Daf'allah yesterday ended his East African tour and returned here.

Premier Daf'allah attended the 21st session of OAU bureau and held talks with the Kenyan and Tanzanian officials which he described them as fruitful.

At Dar es Salam Daf'allah said yesterday his government gave top priority to peace and tranquility of Eastern Africa.

He told a news conference at the Dar es Salam International Airport before his departure for home that his government was encouraged by the new Ugandan Government's efforts to bring peace in the country and the region in general.

Daf'allah pledged that his country would work to support reconciliation efforts of the Government of Uganda, led by Yoweri Museveni.

Comments on Relations With Ethiopia

JN101812 Khartoum SUNA in English 1722 GMT 10 Mar 86

[Excerpts] Khartoum, Mar 10, SUNA — The economic crisis in the African continent had been the major topic in the recent mini-summit of the Organization of African Unity "OAU," Prime Minister al-Jazuli Daf'allah said here today.

Daf'allah in his weekly briefing to the local media newsmen today made it clear that the mini-summit decided on the working out of a unified African working paper to be forwarded before the special session of UN General Assembly which will be dedicated for the African economic crisis.

The premier voiced the significance of negotiating with Ethiopia for solving the outstanding problems in peaceful means and for upholding the good neighborhood relations.

Ethiopia and Sudan must reach an understanding for settling the southern Sudan question which incites disputes between the two countries.

Daf'allah showed his dissatisfaction over the efforts made for solving the economic and the southern crisis. The southern problem must be solved in the framework of decentralized governing taking into account the ethnic and cultural differences in the country.

The government exerted remarkable efforts for solving the economic crisis including containing the famine problem and tracking of a path for reforming the economic performance, he explained.

Speaking about the side meetings which he held during the OAU mini-summit Daf'allah said views had been identical on many African issues. During the meeting with the Ethiopian side represented by Fikri Silassi [SUNA spelling] the talks focused on bilateral relations, he said.

Sudan expressed willingness to establish good neighborly relations with Ethiopia, Daf'allah added, arguing that the current government was not responsible for errors of the defunct regime that led to the deterioration in the relations between the two countries.

However Daf'allah said the two ensured the necessity of staunching the bloodshed in the two countries.

UAE Paper Interviews Foreign Minister

GF071742 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD AL-USBU'I in Arabic 6 Mar 86 p 15

[Interview with Sudanese Foreign Minister Ibrahim Taha Ayyub by *AL-ITTIHAD* correspondent Al-Fatih al-Tijani in Addis Ababa during the 43d session of the OAU Ministerial Council — specific date not given]

[Excerpts] Al-Fatih al-Tijani: How do you appraise relations with Libya?

Ibrahim Taha Ayyub: Our relations with Libya are normal despite the fact that this has involved us in many problems with many countries. Many Arab countries are sensitive toward this relationship, particularly Egypt. These countries believe that our relations with Libya are directed against them. Actually, this is not true. Moreover, many African countries have expressed reservations toward our new relationship with Libya, particularly the countries of Zaire, Niger, and Chad. We told these countries that we are a sovereign country and that we will not allow any country to perpetrate acts that shake the stability of any other country from Sudanese territories. We also told them that our relations with Libya are part of our Afro-Arab relations and that we cannot isolate ourselves or isolate Libya from the world. Everyone understood our view. They were also assured that our relations with Libya are only designed to attain mutual interests in the same way as with all Arab and African countries.

Al-Tijani: Since the formation of the transitional government, your government announced that Sudan would ameliorate its relations with the Soviet Union. It seems, so far, that there are no practical and positive steps in this direction. What happened?

Ayyub: We have undertaken a number of steps in this direction. We believe that our relations with the Soviet Union and the socialist bloc countries are normal. We could not expand the bases of cooperation, particularly in the field of exchanging visits, owing to the occurence of some changes in the Soviet Government right after the upheaval, particularly the departure of Gromyko from the Foreign Ministry and his replacement by Shevardnadze. Moscow was keen to rearrange the priorities of its foreign policy. Despite the continuation of contacts through the two embassies in Khartoum and Moscow and the arrival of some Soviet delegations to Sudan to assess some economic and industrial projects and technical cooperation, there have been no visits at the senior level owing to the Soviet Union's preoccupation with the Geneva conference and later with the 27th CPSU Congress. We expect that some senior Sudanese officials will visit Moscow this spring.

Al-Tijani: Is Moscow still refraining from supplying Sudan with Soviet spare parts?

Ayyub: This issue will be discussed by the Sudanese delegation that will soon visit Moscow.

Al-Tijani: There have been contacts between the Egyptian Government and the John Garang movement. Has the Egyptian Government informed you of these contacts? What is their goal?

Ayyub: There have been contacts between the Egyptian Government and John Garang. The Egyptians used to inform us about every contact. We learned from Cairo that the goal behind these contacts is to elucidate the position of the movement with regard to developments in Sudan, particularly with those pertaining to the Jonglie canal which very much concerns Egypt, being a joint Egyptian-Sudanese project that deals with the Nile waters. The movement also informed Cairo that it is not a separatist movement and that it takes into consideration all the issues of Sudan. Sudan is not opposed to these contacts. We encourage these contacts and encourage other countries to contact John Garang and convince him to hold a dialogue.

Security Agreement Reached With Uganda

JN081749 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1733 GMT 8 Mar 86

[Text] Khartoum, 8 Mar (SUNA) — Sudan and Uganda have agreed not to allow their territories to be used as bases for destabilizing the situation in either country. This came during Prime Minister Dr al-Jazuli Daf'allah's talks with Ugandan

President Yoweri Museveni here yesterday. It is believed that the talks revolved around issues of interest to the region.

It has been learned that the prime minister's visit to Uganda yesterday is part of his tour of Ethiopia, Kenya, and Tanzania.

Radio SPLA: Landmine Kills 32 Government Troops

EA101529 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 10 Mar 86

[Text] Reports reaching Radio SPLA [Sudanese People's Liberation Army] from Southern Blue Nile say one Magirus truck of the enemy has been blown up by a landmine, killing 32 enemy soldiers on Kurmuk-Damazin road [Eastern Sudan]. According to our correspondent in Southern Blue Nile, the incident took place on 7 March 1986.

SPLA Ambush Claims 228 Government Casualties 2-3 Mar

EA101530 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 10 Mar 86

[Excerpt] Zindiyyah Battalion under the command of Captain John Ding Deng ambushed the government army and the militia on the 2nd and 3d March 1986 between Duk Fadiat and Akwach Deng.

One hundred and fifty-three government soldiers were killed including one Lieutenant-Colonel (?T.A.C.), one captain and one first lieutenant. Seventy-five government militia were also killed. One land-rover mounted with a 12.7 anti-aircraft gun, 3 lorries, 1 APC, 1 tank, 1 water tanker and 3 other vehicles were also destroyed.

According to our correspondent, the water and food situation has become difficult for the government forces, especially as they have been scattered by the SPLA [Sudanese Peoples Liberation Army] forces. The correspondent says that the SPLA forces have again dispersed the enemy forces as they were trying to regroup in Ayod.

Radio SPLA: Gogrial Army Garrison 'Raided' 3 Mar

EA101539 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 10 Mar 86

[Excerpt] SPLA [Sudanese People's Liberation Army] forces of Nile Battalion under the command of Major Paulino Deng Ojong again raided Gogrial enemy garrison on 3d March 1986.

Eight enemy soldiers were killed and six were seriously wounded. According to our correspondent, the enemy trenches facing Gogrial town council have been taken over by the SPLA. Meanwhile, the only medical assistant who was helping the government forces in Gogrial Garrison has defected to the Sudan Peoples Liberation Army.

SPLA Radio: Defeated Rumbek Forces Urged To Surrender

EA101537 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 10 Mar 86

[Excerpt] The remnants of the forces that fled from Rumbek garrison were intercepted by units of Shark Battalion under the command of Major Bona Abang Dhol. According to the reports most of them have either been killed or dispersed in the forest. In this regard, the spokesman for the SPLA/SPLM [Sudanese People's Liberation Army-Sudanese People's Liberation Movement] political-military high command has appealed to those government soldiers at large, suffering from thirst and hunger and other dangers in the forest, to report themselves to the SPLA units in the area. The spokesman assured the government forces that the safety of their lives will be respected by the SPLA as it had done to the other prisoners of war who were released last year. The spokesman also made it clear to the government soldiers that it is not their fault but it is the regime in Khartoum who sent them to fight their brothers. We are different from the clique in Khartoum. We are human and compassionate and we know you are our brothers and fellow citizens. We shall respect your lives and we will not kill you. But remaining in the forest, you will surely die by yourselves, the spokesman concluded.

CAMEROON

President Biya Returns From Trip to United States

AB102114 Yaounde Domestic Service in English
1800 GMT 10 Mar 86

[Excerpt] President Paul Biya returned home today after a 4-week visit abroad during which he paid an official visit to the United States, followed by a private (?2 week trip) to Los Angeles, Houston, and New York. At the White House, President Biya and his American counterpart, Ronald Reagan, exchanged views on African problems, and bilateral relations.

CHAD

FRG Team Concludes Inspection Tour of Projects

AB102112 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French
1845 GMT 10 Mar 86

[Excerpts] The FRG team which came to our country to monitor the state of progress and execution of projects financed by West Germany ended their mission today. The team, which arrived in our country on 27 February, came to study the best suitable cooperation between our countries. The 5-member team went to the field where they inspected the state of progress of projects financed by the FRG.

After their tour, an appraisal meeting was held this morning and this afternoon, during which the projects of cooperation for 1986 were defined. Chad and the FRG have also established the program of projects to be implemented in 1987.

ZAIRE

Mobutu Promulgates 1986-90 5-Year Economic Plan

AB092100 Kinshasa AZAP in French 1830 GMT 8 Mar 86

[Text] Kinshasa, 8 Mar (AZAP) — Marshall Mobutu Sese Seko, founding chairman of the MPR, has just promulgated the law which approves the first [as received] 1986-1990 5-year economic and social development plan of the Republic of Zaire. This law, which takes effect from 1 January 1986, defines the economic and social objectives of the Republic and ensures that the 5-year plan pursues the rehabilitation of the economic and social infrastructures, the promotion of social activities, the improvement of administrative management, and the growth of the gross domestic product by an annual average of 4 percent. The law also outlines the orientations, strategies, polices, and financing, as well as the organs of execution and cotrol of the 5-year plan. Here is the text of the law:

Law No. 86/001 of 7 March 1986 concerning the approval of the first 1986-1990 5-year economic and social development plan for the Republic of Zaire.

The Legislative Council has adopted,
The founding chairman of the MPR and president of the republic promulgates the law whose contents follow:

Chapter 1: Framework and Objectives

Article 1: Under the present law:

1) The economic and social objectives for the 1986-1990 period are defined;
2) The first 1986-1990 5-year economic and social development plan of the Republic is approved and attached to the present law;

Article 2: The 5-year economic and social development plan pursues the following objectives:

1) The rehabilitation of economic and social infrastructures;
2) The promotion of social activities;
3) The improvement of administrative management;
4) The growth of the gross domestic product by an annual average of 4 percent.

Section 1: Economic Sector:

Article 3: In the agricultural field, the plan aims at:

1) Self-sufficiency and security in food production;
2) The promotion of industrial crops for expert and development of agricultural raw materials;
3) Forest exploitation;
4) An unweighted annual average of 4.5 percent for the whole of the agricultural sector.

Article 4: As far as transport and roads are concerned, the plan aims at:

1) The permanent maintenance of 40,000 km of asphalt interregional roads, the repair of 498 km of asphalt interregional roads, the construction of 125 km of asphalt interregional roads and 86 km of national road;
2) The construction, in an optional program, of 1,600 km of tarred roads on the national route which form part of the trans-African route and on the priority roads meant to end the landlocked situation of the regions;
3) The construction of roads by using local materials like: oil shale, asphalted sand, and cement;
4) The rehabilitation and modernization of rail, maritime, river and lake infrastructure and equipment by ensuring an annual traffic growth of 2 percent;
5) The rehabilitation and development of security materials and the improvement of existing installations through the setting up of buoys and sources of energy to aid navigation;
6) The cleaning up of the environment and anti-erosion controls.

Article 5: Concerning energy, the plan aims at:

1) Substituting diesel thermal engines with small hydroelectric power plants or other local sources;
2) Increasing the rate of utilization of existing infrastructures of production through the development of the medium of distribution of energy;
3) Constructing hydroelectricity plants throughout the Republic.

Article 6: In the field of post and telecommunications, the plan aims at;

1) Rehabilitating and modernizing the internal post and telecommunications system;
2) Increasing the number of telephones by 2 percent and telex machines by 1.25 percent;
3) Rehabilitating and extending urban networks;
4) Acquiring automatic switches and the modernization of the cable networks in some towns, especially the region capitals;
5) Modernizing the national center for radio transmission and television production to cover the whole country;
6) Extending the Zairian telecommunications network by satellite (Rezatelsat) through the installation of new earth stations.

Article 7: At the mining level, the plan airms at:

1) The rehabilitation, profitability, diversification, and integration of mines;
2) An annual average growth of 1.5 percent.

Article 8: On petroleum products, the plan aims at:

1) The development of research and exploitation of oil;
2) An increase in the production of petroleum products;
3) An improvement in the supply of petroleum products in the country;
4) The integration of the production, refinery, and distribution system.

Article 9: Concerning industry, the plan aims at:

1) Economic and industrial integration;
2) The setting into motion of the structural adjustment process;
3) The preparation of conditions for the definition of an industrialization strategy by drawing up a master plan;
4) An annual average growth rate of 8 percent for the whole sector.

Section 2: Social and Administrative Sector:

Article 10: Concerning health, the plan aims at covering 60 (?percent) of the country's health needs through the rehabilitation and/or the creation of 150 health zones and 2,800 health centers.

Article 11: Concerning education, the plan aims at:

1) The improvement of the quality of teaching through rehabilitation and the equipment of existing infrastructures and through the reform of the educational system;
2) The rehabilitation of 167 primary and secondary schools as well as the equipment of 107 primary, secondary, and professional schools;
3) The construction of 54 new primary, secondary, and professional schools;
4) The rehabilitation of four advanced teacher training institutes, eight higher technical institutes, and three universities;
5) The construction and/or the extension of 6 advanced teacher training institutes, 11 higher technical institutes, and the University of Kisangani;
6) The equipping of 3 universities and the faculty institute of Yangambi, the equipping of 11 advanced teacher training institutes and 11 higher technical institutes.

Article 12: In the field of scientific research and technology, the plan aims at:

1) The consolidation of structures of research decentralization;
2) An inventory of the national research potential;
3) The preparation of conditions for the definition of an active research policy integrating the development needs;
4) The sectorial concentration of research programs;
5) The valorization and promotion of scientific and technological research.

Article 13: In the field of housing, the plans aims at:

1) The rehabilitation of the national housing authority;
2) The preparation of conditions for the definition of a housing development strategy;
3) The establishment of structures and mechanisms for the financing and promotion of low-cost housing;
4) The construction of low-cost houses.

Article 14: In the field of water distribution, the plan aims at:

1) Raising the rate of potable water supply to 70 percent in the urban areas and 35 percent in the rural areas;
2) The rehabilitation and development of the system of produciton and distribution, and the installation of new water production centers in all the regions of the country.

Article 15: In the field of administrative management, the plan aims at:

1) The rehabilitation of the territorial administration;
2) The transformation of public administration into an instrument of development;
3) The attainment of autonomy and profitability of the portfolio of the administration, (?and the transformation) of the public sector into a dynamic element of economic integration.

Chapter of Orientations, Strategies, Polices, and Financing
Section on Orientations, Strategies, and polices

Article 16: Economic development is founded on

— concerted economic liberalism;
— economic and industrial integration;
— regional decentralization;
— economic diversification;
— an effective monetary, financial, and fiscial policy;
— an appropriate policy in matters of human resources in the areas of demography, employment, revenues, and salaries.

Article 17: The economic and social development strategies and polices depend in priority on the rehabilitation of the economic and social infrastructures, and the tool of production.

Section on Financing

Article 18: The overall cost of the first 5-year economic and social development plan of 1986-1990 is estimated at 262.9953 billion zaires at the 1985 value.

The financing of the plan will be done through the budget of the state and the decentralized administrative entities, the self-financing of public enterprises, investments of the private sector, loans, and gifts.

Chapter 3: Execution and Inspection

The departments of the Executive Council, the decentralized administrative entities, and public enterprises are charged with the execution of the plan, each in its sector, but under the supervision of the Department of Planning. This department will establish the advancement of the works quarterly.

Article 20: Budgetary credits allocated in the first 5-year economic and social development plan for the Republic for the 1986-1990 have a constraining character just as those for public debt and remunerations.

Article 21: At the time of the submission of the state budget to the Legislative Council, the Executive Council renders account at the same time of the execution of the plan. It states — for the previous budget year — the conditions in which the plan had been executed, the results obtained, the constraints and the ways and means envisaged to amend them, as the case may be, with a view to attaining the set objectives.

Chapter 5: Final Dispositions

Article 22 The present law comes into force on 1 January 1986.

Issued in Kinshasa on 7 March 1986

[Signed] Marshal Mobutu Sese Seko Kuku Ngbendu Wa Za Banga

State Commissioner Attends Brussels Credit Meeting

AB101526 Paris AFP in English 1415 GMT 10 Mar 86

[Text] Brussels, March 10 (AFP) — An informal two-day meeting of Zaire's seven main creditor countries began here monday, chaired by Belgian Prime Minister Wilfried Martens and his Zairian counterpart Kengo Wa Dondo. The United States, France, Canada, Italy, Britain, West Germany and Japan were to discuss the effects of a strict austerity plan introduced in Zaire three years ago, which corrected the country's financial chaos but resulted in a huge flight of capital abroad.

Independent experts estimate that more than one billion dollars had left the country instead of being invested in domestic projects and consumption, and say another 500 million will be lost in the next two years if the current financial policy does not change.

Mr. Kengo said in an interview published Monday in the Belgian daily *LE SOIR* that the year had started well thanks to the rise in international coffee prices and the fall in the oil price and the value of the dollar. He said the purpose of the present meeting for Zaire was to show its creditors that its policy of "austerity and stabilisation" could not continue without further assistance to boost the economy.

BURKINA FASO

Delegation Returns From 27th CPSU Congress

AB091415 Ouagadougou Domestic Service in French
1900 GMT 8 Mar 86

[Excerpt] You will recall that a high-level delegation from our country went to Moscow to attend the 27th CPSU Congress. This delegation was headed by Comrade Jean-Baptiste Boukary Lingani, the minister of national defense; it returned to Ouagadougou yesterday, Friday, satisfied with having accomplished the task assigned it by the entire Burkinabe people, the National Council of the Revolution, and the revolutionary government.

At least, you have been able to follow the daily activities of this delegation through the radio and the other organs of the press: visits to some of the 15 republics of the USSR, participation in congress deliberations, meetings with officials of the Central Committee of the CPSU, discussions with delegations and political leaders of friendly countries such as Bulgaria and the GDR, talks with friendly organizations such as the solidarity organization with the peoples of Africa and Asia through the Afro-Asian Solidarity Committee, remarks on Radio Moscow's international service, and so on.

Participating for the first time, an act of revolutionary choice, our country's delegation delivered a message of greeting and congratulations from the comrade president of Burkina Faso to the congress. The message was delivered to the Soviet people at a meeting held at the [place name indistinct] in Moscow on 1 March 1986.

All of these activities demonstrate the dynamism of the Burkinabe delegation and the concern for our young revolution. As usual, the delegation, which was headed by the comrade minister of popular defense, judiciously used the opportunities offered it to further enlighten the friends of and sympathizers with the Burkinabe revolution on its objectives and the difficulties it has been facing.

GHANA

PNDC Member Obeng Returns From CPSU Congress

AB081510 Accra Domestic Service in English
1300 GMT 8 Mar 86

[Text] A member of the PNDC [Provisional National Defense Council], P.V. Obeng, is back home after leading a 2-man delegation to the 27th Congress of the Soviet Communist Party in Moscow. Speaking to newsmen at Kotoka International Airport, he said the congress discussed political, socioeconomic as well as constitutional matters. It also provided a platform for self-criticism among party functionaries.

Mr Obeng noted that political and economic reports submitted to the congress are relevant to the Ghanaian situation. He therefore called on all identifiable bodies like the TUC [Trade Union Congress], CDR's [Committee for the Defense of the Revolution] and other revolutionary organs to contribute to the success of the economic recovery program.

While in the Soviet Union, the delegation met the Soviet deputy prime minister and officials of the Council for Mutual Economic Cooperation. The other member of the delegation, Brigadier Mensah-Woode, a PNDC member, is due home later.

Netherlands Promises Recovery Program Grant

AB081632 Accra Domestic Service in English
1300 GMT 8 Mar 86

[Text] A member of the Netherlands National Assembly, (Hans van Vizel), has described the PNDC [Provisional National Defense Council] economic recovery program as a shining example to other West African and Third World countries. He made the remark when the Asantehene [king of Ashanti], Otumfuor Poku Ware, paid a visit to the National Assembly at The Hague.

Mr (van Vizel) said the PNDC's effort to revive Ghana's economy has won for her the admiration and confidence of all those who have the country at heart. The Asantehene told the parliamentarians that Ghana, under the PNDC administration, is determined to improve her lot and will therefore welcome any assistance from countries like the Netherlands. Otumfuor Poku Ware praised the Dutch government for her assistance to Ghana during the 1983 drought and expulsion of Ghanaians from Nigeria. He also called on the minister for overseas development [title as heard], Dr Eegje Schoo. She announced that the Netherlands is to grant Ghana 20 million guilders this year in appreciation of the PNDC's bold economic measures. Dr Schoo said her country would monitor Ghana's socioeconomic progress and provide her with every assistance for the success of the economic recovery program. She praised the PNDC and Ghanaians for the efforts being made to revive the economy.

The Asantehene is in the Netherlands to perform the opening ceremony of a new Ghana-Holland Cocoa Processing Company.

Addressing a news conference earlier, Otumfuor Poku Ware stressed the determination of the PNDC to create a healthy investment climate in Ghana. He said Ghana, as a developing country, is keenly aware that a sound industrial base offers the best guarantee for economic development.

GUINEA-BISSAU

Three Nations Agree on Pact To Improve Customs

AB061317 Dakar PANA in French 0943 GMT 6 Mar 86

[Text] Bissau, 6 Mar (ANG/PANA) — The eighth tripartite meeting on the Senegalese-Gambian-Guinea-Bissau Customs Assistance Agreement ended Tuesday after approving several measures aimed at improving customs transactions among the three states.

Senegal, Gambia, and Guinea-Bissau thus agreed to adopt the ECOWAS document relating to the free movement of persons and goods among the ECOWAS member states.

The three countries also believed that the establishment of a radio link between their customs services would require an investment of more than 44 million CFA francs. Considering that the establishment of this network is essential for the control of activities along their borders, the three countries asked the secretary general of the agreement to approach financial sources such as the European Economic Community, the ECOWAS, Japan, and Switzerland to obtain adequate funds.

Concerning the fight against smuggling, the three delegations expressed satisfaction about its development. However, Senegal stressed that its territory continues to be flooded with smuggled commodities, particularly sugar, from outside.

Concering sporting and cultural activities, the Senegalese delegation proposed the organization of sporting events among the customs services of the three countries. Senegal also invited Guinea-Bissau to send five children to take part in holiday camps in Senegal.

The next meeting of the Customs Assistance Agreement will take place in Dakar, Senegal.

LIBERIA

EEC Sending $44 Million for Rural Development

AB042139 Monrovia Radio ELWA in English 1710 GMT 4 Mar 86

[Excerpt] The delegate of the European Economic Community, Dr N. (Alexandrix), has disclosed that the EEC has laid down $44 million for financing of development projects in Liberia. He said the bulk of the amount will go to rural development. According to a press release from the Ministry of Rural Development, Dr (Alexandrix) made the disclosure today when he met with the minister of rural development, the Honorable J. Kolie, and the senior staff of the ministry.

The EEC delegate noted that his organization is in the process of sending the $44 million and requested that the Ministry of Rural Development channel its request for EEC assistance through the Ministry of Planning and Economic Affairs. He promised EEC'S cooperation with the authorities of the Ministry of Rural Development. Dr (Alexandrix) mentioned further that the EEC has a good contribution for Liberia, and is willing to supplement Liberia's effort for economic recovery. He said the EEC has financed several micro projects in the country and is in the process of signing a contract for financing or support [words indistinct].

NIGER

Niger Basin Authority Meeting Opens in Niamey

AB072115 Paris AFP in French 1535 GMT 7 Mar 86

[Text] Niamey, 7 Mar (AFP) — The 14th session of the Council of Ministers of the Niger Basin Authority (ABN) grouping nine Central and West African countries, opened Friday with the watchword of revitalizing this organization which is experiencing a serious financial crisis.

In his opening address, Chadian Minister of Animal Husbandry and Water resources Guinassou Tahar, who was presiding over the meeting, expressed the belief that there was the need to revive the operations of this organization in order to overcome "the calamities caused by drought." The present session, he added, is taking place at a time when the Niger basin seems to be drying up as a result of the drought in the Sahel. He recalled that last year at about the same time, the River Niger had practically stopped flowing in Nimey and it finally dried up in June.

Mr Tahar also called for interregional and international cooperation to gather financial support which, according to him, will enable the ABN to revitalize and engender a veritable process of development, for the benefit of the riverine populations.

During their meeting, the participants (Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Ivory Coast, Guinea, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, and Chad) will deliberate on programs of activities for the organization.

Meeting Ends;Further Study Planned

AB082230 Niamey Domestic Service in French 1900 GMT 8 Mar 86

[Excerpt] The 14th conference of the council of ministers of the Niger Basin Authority, ABN, ended here in Niamey this afternoon in the presence of the minister of the planning, Mr Moustapha Soumaila. A final communique was issued at the end of the working session. The session examined particularly various areas of cooperation between the ABN and its assistance donors [bailleurs d'assistance] as well as the constraints facing the smooth running of the ABN executive secretariat. It examined the audit report on the financial management of the organization, and decided on measures necessary to recover any funds whose use may be found to be fraudulent. It also decided on measures aimed at improving the situation within the Executive Secretariat.

The meeting decided to convene an extraordinary council of ministers meeting to further examine issues connected with the protocol concerning the authority's intervention in various irrigation projects for development, a development fund for the authority, and the adoption of the statute of the executive secretariat and the aim of the authority.

The session also approved the recurrent budget of the Executive Secretariat for 1986. The budget, which is described as one of austerity, was fixed at 285,250,400 CFA francs in revenue and expenditure.

The 14th conference of the council renewed the mandate of Mr (Jonathan Holowou) as assistant executive secretary for a 4-year period.

The 15th session of the council of ministers will be held in Ndjamena in Chad.

NIGERIA

Chadian Recruiting on Federal Territory Nonexistent
AB102122 Lagos Domestic Service in English 2100 GMT 10 Mar 86

[Text] The Federal Government has declared as false, allegations by the Hissein Habre government in Ndjamena that Nigeria is being used as a recruitment center by one of the Chadian factions. In a statement today, the Ministry of External Affairs said Nigeria is determined to ensure that neither her land nor airspace was violated by any of the parties to the Chadian conflict. It said measures have been taken for effective surveillance of the country's airspace and land borders to prevent any violation. The ministry said diplomatic contacts with all relevant parties have not been abandoned, stressing that Nigeria believes that the solution to the Chadian conflict is political and not military.

SIERRA LEONE

Minah Voices Concern Over Reported Arms Cache
AB071515 Paris AFP in English 1425 GMT 7 Mar 86

[Text] Freetown, March 7 (AFP) — Acting Sierra Leone President Francis Minah on Thursday expressed concern over reports that an arms cache bound for his country had been found on a Panamanian-registered coaster arrested in the French military port of Brest last month. The 660-tonne vessel had initially been reported to be carrying sophisticated arms and ammunition, and there was speculation that the cargo may have been destined for opposition groups wishing to overthrow the regime in Sierra Leone, or possibly in neighboring Liberia.

However, the report of a large arms find was later denied by the French public prosecutor in Brest, who briefly detained the British captain and crew. The captain was later charged with minor customs offences.

Mr Minah, Sierra Leone's first vice-president who is standing in for President Joseph Momoh during his absence from the country, said he had been horrified by the report. He had earlier summoned French Ambassador Louis Dominici to State House to ask him to brief him about the incident.

President Momoh, who is currently on an official visit to Britain, has said in a radio interview that the French government had promised to investigate the affair and report its findings to the Sierra Leone authorities.

Momoh London Meeting With UK's Thatcher Reported
AB091750 Freetown Domestic Service in English 2200 GMT 7 Mar 86

[Text] The president, Dr Joseph Saidu Momoh, and the British prime minister, Mrs Margaret Thatcher, have held discussions on bilateral issues with particular emphasis on the economic situation in Sierra Leone. The discussion took place at 10 Downing Street, during a courtesy call by President Momoh on the British prime minister. On the economic situation in Sierra Leone, the British prime minister appreciated (?efforts) of President Momoh in handling the IMF conditions, and said Britain would support Sierra Leone in such endeavor.

Commenting on [words indistinct] vessel the Silver Sea loaded with arms and which was bound for Sierra Leone apparently to carry out clandestine activities here, Mrs Thatcher assured the head of state that Britain had nothing to do with it, and expressed her disgust over the affair.

President Momoh spoke of the long, historical ties between Britain and Sierra Leone, and hoped that the existing cordial relationship would continue.

Addressing the big crowded hall of Sierra Leone nationals at a reception held at the Sierra Leone High Commission chancellery last week, President Momoh said though he inherited a critical situation, he will spare no effort to amend the damage caused by [words indistinct]. He said that Sierra Leone belongs to all of us, and it was our bounden duty to ensure that individually and collectively we do things to make the country (?prosperous). President Momoh advised students to equip themselves better and return home, and join in the herculean task of building a more prosperous nation. Dr Momoh assured Sierra Leone nationals there that the administration would not hold anything against anybody, adding that the door is open to those who are prepared to operate within the existing framework, as his administration does not believe in recrimination and bickering. He stressed that (?policies) of confrontation was now over, and it is now the policy for the consolidation and construction. To accomplish this, he added, we need all hands on deck.

SENEGAL

President Diouf Departs for Talks in Austria
AB102116 Dakar Domestic Service in French 2000 GMT 10 Mar 86

[Excerpt] The presidential couple left Dakar this morning for Vienna, Austria. President Abdou Diouf will hold several rounds of talks with Austrian authorities. On their way to Vienna, the head of state and Mrs Abdou Diouf made a stopover in Switzerland.

MOZAMBIQUE

Frelimo Political Bureau Issues Communique

MB061744 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1900 GMT 5 Mar 86

[Communique issued by the Political Bureau of the Frelimo Party Central Committee in Maputo on 5 March]

[Text] The Political Bureau of the Frelimo Party Central Committee met from 18 February to 3 March 1986 to discuss the general situation of the country in the political, military, and economic fields. From 21 February, the session of the Political Bureau was expanded to include the first secretaries of the provincial committees and members of the Central Committee residing in Maputo. During the meeting, participants toured military units and the main economic development projects in Maputo Province, which resulted from implementing the decisions of the third party congress.

The Political Bureau assessed and profoundly debated the political situation in the country. The war situation that we have been experiencing results from external aggression against our fatherland and our revolution. It is carried out by imperialism, which uses racist South Africa as its operational base and the armed bandits as its instrument. This is a historic phenomenon that occurs in all revolutionary struggles which the people wage for independence and social justice. This imperialist conspiracy relies on former settlers, international racists, and extreme rightwing circles.

The Mozambican people have been able to understand the nature of the aggression against their fatherland and have responded with courage and resolve against the designs of imperialism. The Mozambican people support Frelimo and associate it with the great gains of independence and the ideals of unity, justice, and freedom.

Our opposition to foreign exploitation and domination did not disappear with the proclamation of national independence. The class struggle has not vanished. Instead, it has been increased during the process of socialist transformation of our society and as a result of foreign aggression. The reactionary elements that prevail in our society take advantage of the existing shortcomings and infiltrate the state apparatus with a view to satisfying their personal ambitions of easily acquiring wealth and exploiting the people. There are fifth columnists in our midst. The enemy never acts without its agents. Its action is designed to undermine the activities of the state and society. Its objective is to aggravate the daily shortcomings in order to divide the people from their leadership and the masses from their armed wing, the Mozambique Armed Forces-FPLM.

Imperialism has transformed our country into its main target in the region because we are building a nation based on equality, free of discrimination of any kind, because we are building socialism, and because the Mozambican revolution has inspired the popular and progressive forces in the region. These are our sophisticated weapons that threaten South African hegemony and the interests of imperialism.

Enemy action has a general nature. It seeks to isolate our country and prevent its integration in the region by sabotaging the communications routes. Such action is designed to affect national reconstruction by aiming at economic and social development projects. Enemy action is felt in residential areas through propaganda from the foreign news agencies, rumors, and sporadic acts of terrorism.

Imperialism has realized that there are two processes running parallel in the People's Republic of Mozambique, namely the creation of the nation and the building of socialism. The process of strengthening the nation is one of the main targets. Through armed bandit action, the enemy seeks to destroy all forms of organized rural life. It attacks the people, communal villages, cooperatives, the peasant supply network, and rural schools and hospitals. It destroys the means of production and crops and assassinates militants and members of parliament. By creating insecurity and panic and causing the dispersion of the people, the enemy vainly seeks to prevent the process of socialization of the countryside. This process, however, is marked by a growth in national awareness and the achievement of a superior stage of socioeconomic organization in the rural areas. Through armed bandit action and the maneuvers of economic destabilization by South Africa, the enemy seeks to prevent economic development. Accordingly, it aims at creating dissatisfaction, division, and confusion inside our country in order to put socialism in danger.

At the political and ideological level, enemy action is evident in the attempt to reinstate the feudal social order and cause a resurgence of tribalism, regionalism, racism, and all forms of division with a view to destroying national unity. This imperialist action is facilitated because in the last few years we have gotten away from our revolutionary tradition in our work methods, lifestyle, and relations among militants. Imperialist action is aided by our shortcomings in our fight to assert our cultural identity, by the ideological hindrances to our actions and by our inability to fully grasp the party's philosophy. We have relaxed our vigilance, have lost our ability to identify the enemy, and have forgotten that the enemy is defined by its daily action. All this is seen in practice by our difficulty and slowness in carrying out decisions, in punishing those who violate the law, and in making the command post politically conscious.

The Political Bureau has made decisions regarding the party apparatus and the leading role of the party over the state, the defense and security forces, and the economy.

Party Apparatus:

The Political Bureau decided that the normal functioning of the party organs is fundamental to fulfilling the principle of making the command post politically conscious. In the framework of its regular activity the Political Bureau leads the war, the economy, and the state. The Political Bureau will, accordingly, define governing areas and appoint members of the party leadership to guide them. The members of the party central organs must not take on too many tasks. The Political Bureau will propose to the next session of the Central Committee the reorganization of the secretariat and in this context an assessment must be made regarding the restructuring of the areas of cadres and training, administration of the party apparatus, and the leadership and control of specific sectors of the economy.

The party will step up its political work within the defense and security forces. The party central school deserves special attention and a Central Committee member should be appointed on a full-time basis to run it and strengthen its cadres. The publication of the official organ of the party, *A VOZ DA REVOLUCAO* [Voice of the Revolution], will be resumed in order to inform the militants and the fraternal parties.

The Party Leadership Over the State:

The Political Bureau decided that the party, the state, and the defense and security forces must transform the electoral process into a great occasion to strengthen national unity from the Rovumj River to the Maputo River and from Zumbo to Nacala. It must be an occasion for committing tribalism, regionalism, and racism; or developing the spirit of patriotism; and for strengthening the nation. It must be a great occasion for mobilization, organization, and intensification of the political and military action in order to transform the struggle against the armed bandits into a war of the people as a whole. In order to ensure egality and implement laws, the organs of the People's Assembly must function on a regular basis and its working commissions must be reactivated. The government structure must reflect the present priorities in order to more sufficiently respond to the demands of the war effort and the war economy. Attention must also be paid to the leadership of the state apparatus and the coordination of international cooperation.

Defense and Security Forces:

The Political Bureau assessed the efforts made by our glorious armed forces, FPLM, in the defense of the fatherland. It hailed the courage and bravery of the soldiers, NCO's, and officers who, under difficult conditions, defend our territorial integrity and national sovereignty. It also hailed the dedication of the police and security forces in the arduous task of maintaining public order. The Political Bureau also hailed the People's Militia, an organized form of people's determination to implement the principle of people's self-defense.

The Political Bureau dealt in particular wih the ongoing organization process within the defense and security forces. It decided that it is important to speed it up and to quickly complete the plan. The Political Bureau members themselves will work regularly in schools, training centers, and other military units so that by close contact with combatants, they may closely follow the army's efforts to defend the fatherland and involve the people in it.

The Political Bureau carefully assessed the living conditions of our combatants and in this context decided that:

— In the ongoing organizational process within the Mozambique Armed Forces, FPLM, priority should be given to improving logistics by ensuring the regular supply of foodstuffs, uniforms, wapons, and wages.

— In the framework of the war economy, the existing economic and financial resourcs must be channelled first to the war effort.

— The government should soon approve the social welfare regulations in order to normalize the situation of former combatants and support the relatives of soldiers who endure hardships in the defense of the fatherland.

— The service responsible for the support and organization of those crippled by war should be urgently reorganized.

The Political Bureau believes that the patriotism, generosity, and eagerness of the youth have not been adequately used. It is necessary that the Mozambican youth, who have been called up to defend various sectors of the fatherland, should be a factor in increasing morale, in reorganizing the army, and in protecting our army's combat traditions.

The Political Bureau noted the existence of experienced officers and NCO's and qualified cadres that should be fully and rationally utilized by the Ministry of National Defense in accordance with their qualifications and potential.

In the context of the tours by Political Bureau meeting participants, note was taken of the importance of a correct and close link between the management, experts,and workers of large-scale economic projects and the military and paramilitary units responsible for their protection. These positive experiences must be studied and expanded to other similar situations. It is only through the joint practical effort of production and defense that the people-army and soldier-worker links are strengthened and the principle of war economy is consolidated.

Economy:

The Political Bureau decided that the government should soon prepare a plan of action designed to implement the guidelines given by his excellency the president of the republic during the 14th session of the People's Assembly.

Beginning immediately, state plans should include both general and specific tasks for compulsory fulfillment. The government will pay special attention to the following aspects:

a. Agricultural Production:

A more efficient method of allocating land and resources to state, cooperative, private, and family sectors should be adopted. The creation of communal villages should be speeded up in the areas where the people are being freed from the yoke of the armed bandits. The creation of associations of small farmers to facilitate the supply of resources and consumer goods to them and to guarantee their direct access to markets by providing them, whenever possible, with means of transport should be encouraged. These incentives will be provided based on the response of the farmers and the family sector to the need to produce strategic goods, namely cotton, oil-bearing seeds, grain, and other crops still to be determined, and their subsequent contribution to increasing exports. The extent of abandoned farm and idle land must be surveyed and the land must be distributed to peasants, cooperatives and private enterprises in order to ensure the proper use of existing resources and infrastructure. The Ministry of Agriculture must concentrate its actions on supporting the cooperative and family sectors, particularly on projects to build needed infrastructure which may be carried out by the peasants themselves using local resources. The Council of Ministers must urgently approve the land regulation.

b. Construction, Industry and Transport:
Building material factories must be rehabilitated, giving priority to ones which depend on local materials such as bricks, limestone, tiles, and so on. Local production of building materials as well as the building of houses, schools, health centers, barracks, military and police wards using local materials must be encouraged. Rent laws must be enforced and rigorous measures to avoid a greater deterioration of houses must be implemented. The production of cooking oil, soap, shoes, textile, drinks and cigarettes must be established as priority tasks of light industry on which more effort should be concentrated. The repair and building of ships to support our fishing fleet must be speeded up, and sea transport must be reorganized for the maximum utilization of our existing resources. A study of the possibility of establishing a sea passenger transportation service must be undertaken.

c. Living Conditions:
The Political Bureau examined the causes for the decline in our workers living conditions. It noted that it was in living conditions that imperialist destabilizing actions were mostly felt. Actions such as the destruction of agricultural and industrial production, the sabotage of the means of production, and attacks on roads and means of transportation have a special impact on the people's living conditions. Added to this are things like blackmarketeering and unbridled speculation of the parasitical sectors of our society. It is only with a combined action by citizens and the state that we can successfully confront this situation. The government must study measures aimed at enabling the people to participate in this fight in an organized manner. As short-term actions, the government must do the following:

— Revitalize the state's inspection of the economy and the activities of people's inspection commissions to control markets and prices.

— Urgently review the prices of consumer goods and state enterprise services. Particular attention should be given to sectors such as furniture, repairs, and house maintenance as well as repair of vehicles.

— Set the price of textiles, clothes, and shoes as they come out of factories.

— Review the present consumer cooperative supply networks given the importance of this sector.

— Give priority to providing the consumer and production cooperatives with the necessary means of transport.

— Give greater support to initiatives which favor an increased supply of commodities to the cities, namely increasing support for the green zones and increasing production of cereals, vegetables, and stock and poultry raising in districts surrounding the cities.

— Rigorously examine the use of gardens near the city, replacing individuals who are unable to make good use of them.

— Urgently complete the labor regulation, speed up the process and approval of professional careers, define cadre personnel, and open up competiion.

— Labor legislation now in force, including decree 4/80, must be examined in the light of present working conditions.

— Action aimed at rationally using civil servants and qualified personnel, including contracted foreign workers, in view of our country's economic situation must be undertaken.

— Cadres deserving political confidence and with the ability to lead strategic sectors must be identified and selected.

d. Private Sector:
The Political Bureau examined the role of private sector and of national and foreign investments within the framework of economic development and national reconstruction. The Political Bureau reaffirms the positive role that the private sector can play in the general utilization and development of national resources as long as norms of professional and commercial ethics are observed and there is respect for the institutions, the laws, and the constitution.

The deep and open discussion which took place in an atmosphere of frank comradeship during the expanded Political Bureau meeting attended by the first secretaries of the provincial committees and members of the Central Committee residing in Maputo permitted a profound examination of our country's politics and ideology and the consolidation of our leadership's views. We came out of this meeting more united and more enlightened with regard to the path we must follow to build socialism and implement the decisions of the 4th Frelimo Party Congress. National unity is a fundamental condition for creating the Mozambican nation. This unity is forged in practice in the daily work and experience, in the solution of problems facing our entire society, and in the defense of the fatherland, which belongs to all Mozambicans. The visits to military units and large economic projects once again demonstrated that when men are engaged in collective work with common objectives, there is no room for racism, regionalism, or tribalism. It was with these principles — these sophisticated weapons — that we were able to overthrow the fascist colonial power and install people's power. We must learn how to exercise and defend this power. We must be able to correctly define the enemy in this class struggle. We must be able to mobilize all true patriots, without discrimination, in our tireless fight for the defense of independence, the building of the Mozambican nation, and the victory of socialism.

The struggle continues. Maputo, 5 March 1986.

SOUTH AFRICA

Natal-KwaZulu Joint Authority Proposal Presented

MB110938 Johannesburg SAPA in English 0934 GMT 11 Mar 86

[Text] Cape Town, March 11, SAPA — Delegations from the KwaZulu government and the Natal provincial administration met the Minister of Constitutional Development and Planning

Mr Chris Heunis today to present a proposal for a joint executive authority (JEA) in the region.

The delegations, headed by Chief Minister Mangosuthu Buthelezi and the administrator of Natal, Mr Radclyffe Cadman, will also present a draft bill to give effect to the proposal.

Chief Buthelezi said before the meeting began that he did not expect an immediate response from government. He told SAPA that the memorandum containing the proposal was the first document to be presented to the South African Government on the proposed joint exexutive, which he described as a "rationalising of authority".

A great deal of money was wasted by duplication of services in the two administrative areas. The establishment of a joint authority would be "very significant".

Mr Cadman said, in a copy of a presentation he intended to make to the minister, and which was released at 11 o clock, as the meeting began, that the proposals would promote efficiency, economy and coordination in government in the region.

"We have to date established a non-statutory form of cooperation and it has become abundantly clear to those involved that there are very substantial economies to be won by achieving even closer cooperation."

No less than 15 fields of cooperation, including road traffic, education, libraries, nature conservation and the creation of employment opportunities, had been identified.

The proposed JEA would deal with matters of "joint or mutual interest and importance", and would be accountable at the highest level to Parliament. Equal representation would be afforded to both Natal and KwaZulu, and decisions would be by consensus.

The joint services would be financed from an account "towards which the respective parties will contribute on an agreed basis" with the possibility of annual grants from central government, or direct funding from Parliament on the basis of annual budgeting.

Mr Cadman said that because of the "infinite variation of fact and circumstance" in such a wide field, it was proposed that the necessary legislation take the form of an empowering enactment in terms of which the state president would have the power, with the agreement of the administrator and the chief minister, to establish a JEA by proclamation. The JEA would exercise the powers presently, or in future, vested in the administrator or chief minister.

The meeting, he said, was of historic significance, and he hoped that Mr Heunis would find it possible to make a favourable recommendation to the cabinet.

Although both Mr Cadman and Chief Buthelezi said they did not expect the meeting to last long, a spokesman for Mr Heunis' office said the minister had no appointments until three o'clock this afternoon.

Also present at the talks are the KwaZulu minister of education, and secretary general of Inkatha, Dr Oscar Dhlomo, Mr Frank Martin, Senior MEC [Member of Executive Committee] in the Natal provincial council, and the Director General of Constitutional Development and Planning Dr A.H. van Wyk.

Heunis on Meeting, Proposal

MB111129 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1127 GMT 11 Mar 86

[Text] Cape Town, Mar 11, SAPA — Proposals for the establishment of a joint executive authority (JEA) for Natal and KwaZulu were handed to the minister of constitutional development and planning, Mr Chris Heunis, by the chief minister of KwaZulu, Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi, and the administrator of Natal, Mr Radclyffe Cadman today.

During the hour-long meeting in his offices in the H.F. Verwoerd Building here, Mr Heunis was also informed "as a matter of courtesy" of the "indaba" called for April 3 to discuss a joint legislative authourity for the two territories.

The minister told reporters afterwards that he would now submit the JEA proposals to the government "for its consideration and decision".

The principle of cooperation between KwaZulu and Natal was, he said, a "natural manifestation of their interdependence in many fields". He declined, however, to comment on the proposed "indaba" saying the government did not intend to prescribe to any political party how to conduct its own business and negotiations.

Asked whether a draft bill to bring the JEA into effect, which was also handed to him at the meeting, was regarded as urgent, he said he understood that Chief Buthelezi and Mr Cadman wanted a final decision from the government as soon as possible.

"As far as I'm personally concerned I don't see any reason why the governemnt should not deal with it as expeditiously as possible."

Both Mr Cadman and Chief Buthelezi said the meeting had been "cordial".

The chief minister said at a press conference afterwards that both sides had realised the "serious nature" of the proposals.

The failure of the JEA would be "not just a failure of a Natal experiment", but would affect the whole situation in South Africa. It would give fuel to those who said there was not scope for a negotiated future, that violence was "the only way out" and that a strategy of non-violence was not viable.

He said he did not get the impression that Mr Heunis was against the proposals but both sides realised that "it's not going to be an easy thing".

In a memorandum presented to Mr Heunis and released after the meeting, Chief Buthelezi said that in terms of the present statutory situation, KwaZulu and Natal could do "very little more than we have done" to eliminate unecessary duplication of services.

"We badly need the kind of politics in which black and white at the local and regional levels can implement together, and we badly need to do so with the blessing of the government."

Blacks had not asked for the present constitution and it had raised widespread anger. Not only had it been "ranged down black throats," Chief Buthelezi said, but the dismantling of regional structures and the introduction of regional services councils had also been prescribed for blacks by whites.

"We need to break the vicious cycle of prescription and rejection.

"That which could be sound if introduced as a result of negotiation will continue to be rejected if it is simply dictated.

"I see the endeavours we have made in KwaZulu and Natal as a region of South Africa as being capable of making a very important breakaway from the politics of prescription and rejection."

The proposals, he said, were "hard-headed, sensible and pragmatic" and could be turned into reality.

"I am not arguing that our proposals will wave some kind of magic wand. All I am saying is that our proposals establish a political arena in which the scales are at least tipped somewhat towards the politics of negotiation."

Although the actual proposals were not released, Mr Cadman indicated in a memorandum presented to the minister that the JEA would cover areas such as roads, education, traffic, libraries, nature conservation and recreation.

It would afford equal representation to Natal and KwaZulu, and would be financed from a joint account with the possibility of further grants from central government or direct funding from Parliament on the basis of an annual budget.

Also present at today's meeting were the director-general of constitutional planning and development, Dr A.H. Van Wyk and the minister of education and secretary general of Inkatha, Dr Oscar Dhlomo.

Chief Buthelezi said he planned to travel back to KwaZulu today.

Police Hold Boycott Leader for Questioning

MB110958 Johannesburg SAPA in English 0947 GMT 11 Mar 86

[Text] Port Elizabeth, March 11, SAPA — Mr Mkhuseli Jack, the consumer boycott leader who returned to Port Elizabeth on Sunday after talks with anti-apartheid groups in Europe, was taken in for questioning by the security police today.

He was on his way into the city through New Brighton at 9.45am when he saw police stopping a car carrying officials of the Port Elizabeth Black Civic Organisation (PEBCO). He also stopped and the police asked him to accompany them to Louis le Grange Square.

Mr Ernest Malgas, PEBCO's organising secretary, said he was with Mr J. Mdongwe, PEBCO's vice president, and other officials when the party was stopped by the police.

"They searched our car and it was then that Mr Jack arrived and they asked him to accompany them to Louis le Grange Square. The atmosphere was friendly.

"They said he would be back during the day," he said.

Mr Jack visited Belgium, Holland and Britain and was a guest of European church leaders. He went to London at the invitation of the anti-apartheid movement, where he addressed MP's at a House of Commons Meeting.

Le Grange Bans Leader for 5 Years

MB111324 Umtata Capital Radio in English 1300 GMT 11 Mar 86

[Text] Law and Order Minister Louis le Grange has banned Port Elizabeth consumer boycott leader, Mkhuseli Jack, and UDF [United Democratic Front] vice president in the eastern Cape, Henry Fazzie, for 5 years. The UDF has responded, saying the ban was likely to bring back the consumer boycott. Mr Jack has been back in South Africa for 2 days after a European tour, during which he advocated a boycott of Kruger rands. Mike Loewe has details.

[Loewe] The two leaders were said to be shattered by the severe restriction orders served on them this morning. They have been banned from all political activity for the next 5 years. Jack only returned from Europe on Sunday, where he called for a boycott of Kruger rands at a launch of a national housing campaign. He hit the local headlines this morning in a report stating that the state of emergency did not mean the black consumer boycott of white shops in the city would not be reimposed. The boycott is due to start up again on 1 April. The government had not unbanned the ANC, COSAS [Congress of South African Students], and Nelson Mandela and other prisoners in exile had not been allowed to return home, the report said. Fazzle served on Robben Island for 21 years and was working actively in the UDF in the eastern Cape. The UDF has reacted, saying the bannings were likely to increase the chances of a renewed boycott of white businesses.

CBS Reporters To Be Allowed To Remain

MB111418 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1417 GMT 11 Mar 86

[Text] Cape Town, Mar 11, SAPA — The members of the Columbia Broadcasting System who were to have been expelled from the country will be allowed to remain. This was announced this afternoon after a series of discussions, described as "good, frank and amicable" between the CBS team and minister of home affairs, Mr Stoffel Botha.

According to a statement issued after their fourth round of talks, the CBS representatives have given Mr Botha an assurance that the networks journalists would be called upon to "obey all bona fide orders of proper law-enforcement officers."

The undertaking is part of a joint two-page statement signalling an agreement which effectively sets aside the expulsion order served on the news team for what was seen as CBS's disregard for a court order prohibiting visual reporting of a mass funeral in Alexandra township last week.

According to the statement, CBS did not divulge the source of the visual material it broadcast and did not admit that it had willfully broken the law.

However, it said "that the South African Government could have grounds to regard this action as a defiance of a South African court order."

"CBS accepts that more care could have been exercised in the handling of the videotape material.

"CBS expresses its regrets for any misunderstanding on its part," the statement said.

The minister was assured that CBS News would in future, as far as possible, ensure that material obtained and used, from whatever source, would not be "tainted with illegality".

CBS had obtained videotape material of the funeral from "an undisclosed source, being aware that the taking into Alexandra of the equipment used to film the funeral might have been illegal."

Mr David Buksbaum, a senior CBS executive who came from New York to lead the negotiations, gave the minister the assurance that the inference he had drawn — that CBS was determined to disregard South African laws — was wrong.

He had stressed that CBS News policy standards were aimed at "ensuring that the presence of CBS news personnel in situations of unrest does not add to the problems encountered by those charged with maintaining order."

"CBS news guidelines pertinent to coverage in South Africa call upon the networks journalists to obey all bone fide orders of proper law enforcement officials."

"The minister accepted these assurances and cancelled the orders of removal," the statement concluded.

The removal orders were served on CBS's bureau chief, Mr Will Mutschmann, correspondent Mr Allen Pizzey and cameraman Mr Wim de Vos last Friday.

Mr Buksbaum, vice president of news coverage and operations, headed the negotiations with the assistance of a legal adviser. With Mr Botha during the talks were Mr Louis Nel, deputy minister of information, and officials of both their departments.

Blacks Lift Eastern Cape Consumer Boycott

MB101908 Johannesburg Television Service in English 1700 GMT 10 Mar 86

[Text] The black consumer boycott in the eastern Cape is over. The decision by blacks to lift their boycott of shops outside their own townships follows the ending of the country's partial state of emergency.

The boycott of white and Indian shops by black consumers began last year and inflicted a severe blow on the regional economy already feeling the pinch of recession. After a temporary suspension towards the end of last year to allow black shoppers to gear themselves up for Christmas, the ban was reintroduced some 3 months ago. Shopkeepers in the region have expressed their relief that they are back to business as usual.

UDF To Hold First Public Rally Since Emergency

MB101532 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1524 GMT 10 Mar 86

[Text] Cape Town, March 10, SAPA — Hundreds of posters advertising a United Democratic Front [UDF] "Free Mandela" meeting tonight were pulled down at the weekend.

The meeting, to be held in the Claremont Civic Centre and to be addressed by Mrs Albertina Sisulu, was advertised by placards throughout the southern suburbs.

A UDF organiser said today that "not a vestige of the posters remain" and that "they must have been removed with incredible meticulousness since being put up on Friday. Every single one in Rondebosch, Mowbray, Rosebank and Observatory has disappeared. Not a sign of them remains, no torn paper or string, nothing. I've never seen anything like it.

"Usually, when our posters are torn down, something is left. They must have been removed extremely methodically. This looks like a carefully planned operation by a group with many resources."

The organiser said that the meeting was still "definitely on" and that people "should not be put off by these disruptive tactics."

The Claremont and Observatory area committees of the UDF have said in a statement that the meeting, to be held at 8pm, will be the first UDF public gathering since the imposition of the state of emergency.

Twenty pickets, members of the Claremont and Observatory committees, today picketed spots in the southern suburbs with placards saying "Free Mandela Now."

A spokesman for the committees said the picketing would continue this morning, and would also serve to publicise tonight's meeting.

ANC Denies Running Closed Botswana News Agency

AB110752 Paris AFP in English 1813 GMT 10 Mar 86

[Text] Lusaka, March 10 (AFP) — South Africa's banned African National Congress denied Monday that it ran a Botswana news agency that was closed recently under pressure from Pretoria along with the ANC offices in Gaborone.

The SOLIDARITY NEWS AGENCY was "run independently by South African refugees in Botswana," an ANC spokesman said here. The spokesman was reacting to reports that Pretoria had said it was pleased at the closure of the news agency offices and the expulsion of ANC officials from Botswana. He said that while the ANC was one of many subscribers to the agency, it had in fact not been operating since a South African raid on Gaborone last June, when South African troops took away the agency's machines.

Commenting on the closure of the ANC offices in Botswana, the spokesman said the organisation was expecting its Gaborone chief representative to reach Lusaka sometime today.

Pretoria Students Allegedly Oppose Open Campus

MB071138 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1101 GMT 7 Mar 86

[Text] Pretoria, March 7, SAPA — The Students Representative Council [SRC] at the University of Pretoria has confirmed that a motion proposed by 155 students against the opening of the university to all races is representative of the masses.

This student group, which only represents a small minority of the nearly 20000 TUKS [University of Pretoria] students, tabled the controversial motion during a mass campus meeting attended by about 230 students last year.

The SRC deputy-chairman, Mr Danie Crowther, said today the council was "obliged according to constitution" to confirm motions taken at mass meetings.

Confusion reigned on campus today about whether the SRC's move signified that the motion had been accepted as its official policy. However, Mr Crowther insisted the SRC's standpoint was neutral.

The SRC confirmation of the motion was taken after a request by three students for a secret referendum of the motion — which would have taken place this week — was withdrawn. Mr Crowther said that because the secret referendum had been cancelled, the motion proposed at the mass meeting still stood as the "official decision of the masses at this stage."

Meanwhile, it seems that right-wing TUKS students are equally confused about whether the motion was accepted.

360 Students in Paarl Demand White Facilities

MB101445 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1438 GMT 10 Mar 86

[Text] Cape Town, March 10, SAPA — All 360 students at Athlone Training College in Paarl are refusing to attend classes in mobile classrooms erected after a campus building was damaged by fire.

They are demanding that they be allowed to use classrooms and facilities at the nearby whites-only Onderwys Kollege Paarl [OKP], which is 82 per cent full.

Students decided at a meeting over the weekend that conditions in the mobile classrooms were unbearable. Eight mobile classrooms were erected after the fire, apparently caused by a short ciruit, on February 11.

A student said: "We do not want to disrupt the system at OKP. We just want to be allowed to use their facilities.

10,000 Mine Workers on Strike on West Rand

MB101430 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1429 GMT 10 Mar 86

[Text] Johannesburg, March 10, SAPA — About 10,000 workers at Blyvooruitzicht gold mine, on the far west Rand, have started a sit-in strike underground, according to the National Union of Mineworkers [NUM].

NUM said in Johannesburg today the miners had been on strike "since the night shift yesterday. The dispute concerns workers' dissatisfaction with the bonus system."

A spokesman for Rand mines told SAPA a statement was "being prepared."

Management Says Strike 'Illegal'

MB101902 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1839 GMT 10 Mar 86

[Text] Johannesburg , March 10, SAPA — Seven thousand miners at the Blyvooruitzicht Gold Mine went on strike today, but management said the reasons for the action were unknown and the strikers had been warned to return to work "as this is an illegal strike."

The strike, which started last night and continued this morning was, according to the National Union of Mineworkers [NUM], over the bonus system. NUM said about 10,000 miners were on strike.

In a statement to SAPA, management said they held talks today with NUM officials but the union denied "having anything to do with the strike and said they did not approve it."

"In the interim, we will put out a notice to all employees telling them that the strike is illegal and that they must return to work and follow the mine grievance procedure," said Mr Paul Forbes, the deputy head of the Gold Division of Rand Mines.

"As has occurred in the past, the majority of employees want to work but are prevented from doing so by a small number of intimidators," he said.

Mr Forbes said the strikers grouped at the sports stadium and held an illegal meeting after which they returned to their hostels.

"At this stage management is still in the dark as to the reasons for the strike," he said.

Zulus Strike Over Pondos' Return to Work

MB111030 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1027 GMT 11 Mar 86

[Text] Durban, March 11, SAPA — Tension after the recent bloody clashes between Pondos and Zulus in Natal which left more than 60 people dead reached the factory floor yesterday when hundreds of Zulu employees of AECI downed tools in protest against the expected return of Pondos to the factory.

Production at the AECI plant at Umbogintwini was disrupted after hundreds of Zulus refused to start their shifts. They were assembled under a huge tree on the factory premises when a newspaper team visited the giant chemical factory yesterday.

Some employees said the Zulus' refusal to work was a protest against the company's decision to take back their Pondo employees — most of whom fled their homes during the recent bloody clashes in the neighbouring Reserve 5 in Umbogintwini.

Feelings among Zulus began running high as word got around the factory that the Pondos would return to their jobs yesterday, but by noon there was still no sign of the Pondos.

Mr Murray Jobert, a spokesman for AECI's headquarters in Johannesburg, yesterday confirmed that Zulu employees at the Umbogintwin plant went on strike and added that the company was continuing its efforts at mediation. He said the situation was "very sensitive."

Warmbaths 'More or Less' Normal After Stayaway

MB101145 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1127 GMT 10 Mar 86

[Text] Warmbaths, March 10, SAPA — Warmbaths is "more or less" back to normal after a week-long stayaway by the town's black labour forces, outgoing Mayor John Roets said today. "Sure, we've had problems — but we're sorting them out," Mr Roets, who handed over the reins to Mr Howard McClelland last week, stated.

Although it was "too early" to say with any certaininty that workers were all back today, Mr Roets said a builder and a businessman he had spoken to had confirmed that their labourers had turned up.

"The situation in Warmbaths has been reported out of context. I can assure you that people who take the law into their own hands will suffer the consequences.

"You can't blame businessmen for taking reprisals against employees who stay away willy-nilly," Mr Roets said.

He was referring to employers who have vowed to "start their blacks at the bottom" after the stayaway, which, despite a concerted effort by the town's whites to maintain essential services, severely damaged the local economy.

The weeklong stayaway, which "ended" today, was caused, Warmbaths blacks say, by a threefold increase in township rentals over the past three months. Houses which were let for R17.50 are presently priced at R51, a well-known black minister said.

SAAWU Offices Burned in Cape Arson Attack

MB101458 Umtata Capital Radio in English 1400 GMT 10 Mar 86

[Text] The offices of the South African Allied Workers' Union [SAAWU] in East London have been burned out in an arson attack. Frans Kruger reports.

[Kruger] Branch secretary Boysie Nelitafa told me the fire occurred shortly after midnight last night. He said the back door and burglar-proofing had been cut open, which he said was clear evidence the fire was caused by arsonists. Over half the union's local records had been destroyed, including correspondence, completed membership forms, and ledger cards. One room of the office has been completely destroyed, while there is smoke damage to other rooms. Nelitafa estimated the damage at 8,000 rands. Pointing to a history of harassment, including two previous fires at SAAWU offices, Nelitafa said the blaze was the work of what he called agents of apartheid. He added it would not deter the union in its work.

Unrest Flares Against Removal of Brits Residents

MB110537 Johannesburg SAPA in English 2234 GMT 10 Mar 86

[Text] Brits, Mar 10, SAPA — Armed police are escorting trucks carrying belongings of residents of the old location in Brits willing to be moved to the new settlement of Letlhobile some 25 km away.

This follows trouble there at the weekend when arsonists opposed to the removal burned down shops, an administration block and a house of a black policeman. A number of people were arrested as a result. A white man was beaten by resients and left for dead.

Trouble in this small populated township started last December when residents were told by the authorities that they were going to be moved from their township and re-settled in Letlhobile, where modern homes were going to be built for them after their township had allegedly been seen to be a slum.

Residents say their township is five kilometers from the town — thus putting them nearer their owrk. Besides they enjoyed leasehold rights in their township.

Their objection is strengthened by reports that the government had announced that in future no black families would be moved against their will. But last December authorities announced that the old township would definitely be moved and that the entire township would be demolished by the end of next month.

This caused waves of protests from the residents, who were determined to resist the removal.

To date about a third of the residents were reported to have moved to Letlhobile under alleged intimidation by the authorities, some residents said today.

About 200 houses have already been built and occupied and some of the families who have already been moved are temporarily being housed in tents.

Trouble between the residents and the authorities came to head last Friday when the police threw teargas cannisters into a residents meeting in the local community hall where the removal was being discussed. Some angry residents resorted to arson.

At the meeting an action committee was formed but its chairman, Mr Marshall Mafifi, has been detained following the weekend disturbances.

The police have been called in to escort residents who want to move to Letlhobile. The township was reported to be under police surveillance today.

Police Identify Police Station Bombing Suspect

MB110554 Johannesburg SAPA in English 0550 GMT 11 Mar 86

[Text] Johannesburg, March 11, SAPA — The woman detained in connection with attacks on John Vorster Square, the Hillbrow police station and the Cambridge police station has been identified as Miss Marion Monica Sparg, 27, a former journalist.

Police last night confirmed Miss Sparg was detained in connection with the limpet mine attacks on John Vorster Square, the Cambridge Road radio police headquarters and the abortive attack on the Hillbrow police station.

Security police are known to have been on the trail of Miss Sparg within hours of the limpet mine attack on John Vorster Square last Tuesday, in which four people were slightly injured.

It is believed Miss Sparg, who was already being sought in South Africa for questioning in connection with bomb attacks against the Progressive Federal Party [PFP] offices in Norwood and Illovo in 1981, was identified as a suspect before the planting of a limpet mine in a women's toilet in the Hillbrow police station on Friday night.

Miss Sparg, a former junior reporter on the *SUNDAY TIMES* newspaper, vanished from South Africa with Mr Damian de Lange, a cadet reporter on the now defunct *SUNDAY EXPRESS*, in June 1981. They reportedly followed another reporter, Mr Arnold Geyer, who was fired from the then *RAND DAILY MAIL*, across the Limpopo River into Botswana. All three crossed in to Botswana illegally, from where Miss Sparg and Mr de Lange were reported to have gone to Zambia. Mr Geyer, who went to Germany, later estabished himself in Zimbabwe.

Reports were subsequently published in which it was stated that the three were being sought by the security police for questioning in connection with the attacks on the PFP offices.

At the same time he fled from South Africa, Mr Geyer was the alleged leader of the South African Liberation Support Cadre, claimed to be a white fanatical fringe group of the African National Congress.

After the trio left South Africa, Miss Sparg reappeared in Lusaka, where she operated the telex facility in the ANC's headquarters there. Her family lives in East London.

SAPA: Suspect's Sister Also Held

MB111440 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1424 GMT 11 Mar 86

[Text] Johannesburg, March 11, SAPA — A sister of detained former journalist Marion Sparg is reportedly being held under Section 29 of the Internal Security Act in Johannesburg by police investigating bombings at police stations. Debbie Sparg is being held for her suspected "indirect involvement" or "knowledge" of the limpet mine blasts.

Police have refused to confirm her arrest.

Police headquarters said today they were in possession of three limpet mines of Russian origin, and other "objects" which were used as disguises.

Miss Marion Sparg's parents were questioned at the weekend and were allegedly threatened with detention under Section 29 of the Internal Security Act. Mr Wreford Sparg confirmed this morning that he and his wife had been questioned. They had allegedly not reported their daughter's presence after she had stayed with them for three or four days last week.

"The police said we should have told them she was here," Mr Sparg said. "I don't believe she was involved with these bombs." Mr Sparg said that his daughter was "a quiet, compassionate girl."

Police Reject Detainees' Torture Claims

MB090514 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1303 GMT 8 Mar 86

[Text] Johannesburg, Mar 8, SAPA — Allegations of torture and assault made by state of emergency detainees released yesterday were today rejected by a senior spokesman for the South Africa Prisons Service as a "propaganda stunt."

Lt-Col D.J. Immelman, of the Prisons Service, said in a statement they were satisfied that "people entrusted to its care are treated in a responsible and professional way."

At a press conference at Khotso House in Johannesburg yesterday, nine of the 74 detainees released claimed they had been tortured, assaulted and deprived of food and exercise.

Mr Sidney Molekane, 24, president of the Soweto Youth Congress, who was detained on July 21 last year, alleged he was assaulted during the first three days of his detention.

He also alleged he had been subjected to various forms of torture, including the "helicopter treatment" and the "kopseer," [form of torture in which prisoner's head is enclosed in a bag filled with water and bag is then struck] and enforced strenous exercise.

Mr Molekane said he also knew of instances where hand grenades were thrown at detainees and they did not know "if they were alive."

He said a memorandum by detainees had been sent to the authorities but it had "proved fruitless".

Another detainee, Mr Kenneth Fihla, said on one occasion he had been "threatened with a gun held at the back of my head." He alleged assaults were carried out by prison warders and included senior officers and that teargas had been thrown into single cells at Johannebsurg Prison.

Col Immelman, in his reply to the allegations by the detainees, said: "Appropriate channels exist through which requests and complaints could be dealt with."

"There are sufficient mechanisms to prevent or detect irregularities. Detainees at the Johannesburg Prison stated on their release that they had no complaints.

"The allegations in question are therefore rejected as a propaganda stunt," Col Immelman said.

A spokesman for the Police Directorate of Public Relations in Pretoria, asked to comment on the detainees' allegations, said they "found it strange that they should now use a public platform to make allegations of so-called ill treatment while in police custody, when they never submitted such complaints to the proper authorities during their detention, despite ample opportunity to do so. "If Mr Molekane or any other detainee has reason for complaint they can submit their affidavits at a police station or through their legal advisors, for investigation," the statement said.

6 Killed Before Motetedam Funeral of Unrest Victim

AB151517 Paris AFP in English 1513 GMT 10 Mar 86

[Excerpt] Johannesburg, March 10 (AFP) — Six people died after a confrontation with security forces who stopped 1,000 mourners from entering a black township some 250 kilometers (150 miles) from here for the funeral of an unrest victim at the weekend, residents said.

The funeral was to have taken place at Motetedam in the autonymous black "homeland" of Lebowa on Saturday, and about 1,000 people from other towns such as Pretoria and Witbank arrived to express their solidarity with the young victim who was to have been buried.

Residents told field workers from the Transvaal Rural Action Committee (TRAC), a liberal white women's organization that seeks to assist uprooted black people, that Lebowa police and South African soldiers opened fire on the crowd.

The crowd tried to get through blockades set up by the police when the clash occurred, residents told a lawyer taking affidavits for TRAC.

The residents said six people died in the confrontation, but no mention was made of it in police reports today. Police could neither confirm nor deny the report.

Motetema Calm; Many Released

MB110714 Johannesburg SAPA in English 0709 GMT 11 Mar 86

[Excerpt] Groblersdal, March 11, SAPA — The commissioner of police in Lebowa, Brig W.G. Beetje, said today that police units would remain in the Motetema area near Groblersdal as they were investigating a large number of alleged criminal offences arising from recent unrest in the township.

He confirmed that six people had died and six were seriously injured during clashes between police and mobs at the weekend.

"But it is simply not true that we tried to keep people from attending a funeral," he said when questioned about earlier reports from the area. Brig Beetje said his men were on the spot at 6am on Sunday morning to prevent "elements from outside" entering the township. He said the trouble started before the funeral, forcing police to take strong action.

It is believed that large numbers of youths have been released after questioning, but exact figures are not yet available. Initially about 300 people were detained.

Today the situation was calm, as many township residents returned to their jobs in surrounding towns.

Lebowa Police Commissioner Reports

MB110448 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1958 GMT 10 Mar 86

[Excerpts] Groblersdal, Mar 10, SAPA — Six people were killed and at least six injured in battles between mourners and Lebowa police at the Motetema township near Groblersdal on Saturday morning, police confirmed tonight.

Brigadier W.G. Beetge, the Lebowa police commissioner, said a crowd of about 2000 "armed with petrol bombs and stones" gathered outside the Motetema police station at about 7.15am on Saturday shortly before the funeral of a 24-year-old man allegedly killed in an earlier clash with police.

He said the crowd "seemed intent on confrontation" and when a police vehicle approached them the police "had no option" but to open fire with rifles.

Brig Beetge denied earlier reports that the confrontation between police and mourners had come about because police were attempting to prevent people from attending the funeral.

"At no stage on Saturday morning did the police attempt or intend to interfere with people wanting to attend the funeral. The crowd was intent on trouble," Brig Beetge said.

He said police had "tried to stop people entering the township on Friday night because there were just so many people streaming in."

A witness from Motetema, who did not want to be named, said tonight that on Friday night police had not allowed mourners into the township and they had been forced to sleep on the side of the road. She denied that the crowd had been intent on confrontation on Saturday.

About 50 people were in detention in connection with the confrontation, "but we have interrogated many people and many have been released," Brig Beetge said.

He said police had not in any way interfered with the proceedings which took place "peacefully" on Saturday afternoon. He also confirmed that a man had been killed by police shotgun fire at Mahwelering Township near Potgieterus on Saturday after a crowd had gathered outside the post office and stoned it.

One Killed, 13 Injured in White River Court

MB111305 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1243 GMT 11 Mar 86

[Text] White River, March 11, SAPA — At least one person was killed and 13 injured in unrest at the White River Magistrates Court in the eastern Transvaal today police in Pretoria said.

A spokesman for Police Public Relations Division said today's incident was linked to unrest in the White River township of Kanyamazana late last month.

He said on February 28 unrest broke out in the township and 23 vehicles and a number of buildings were set alight.

"Following that incident eight youths were arrested and they were to appear in court today."

The court in White River has facilities to hold 30 people and at least 3,000 arrived for the case.

"By 9am the mob had trampled fences and caused chaos, when another seven busloads of youths arrived," the spokesman said.

Police dispersed the mob with birdshot killing a youth, he said. Another 13 are in hospital under police guard.

Witnesses Say Three Killed

MB111445 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1438 GMT 11 Mar 86

[Text] White River, March 11, SAPA — At least one person was killed today and 13 injured in unrest at the Kabokweni Magistrates Court near White River in the eastern Transvaal, police in Pretoria said.

Reports from witnesses have put the number of dead at three, but this could not be confirmed by police.

Black Attacker Kills One White Near White River

MB101503 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1500 GMT 10 Mar 86

[Text] Pretoria, March 10, SAPA — A Parkview, Johannesburg man, Mr Gordon Victor Campbell, 27, died and two of his friends, Dr Willem Constantyn Ahlers, 57, and his daughter Michelle, 24, were injured when they were attacked by a black man armed with a R1 rifle on the farm Hooggelegen near White River last night.

A spokesman for the Police Divison of Public Relations said the three were on the stoop eating when the man appeared and fired a shot. Michelle was struck in the right arm. The attacker then fired two more shots, hitting Mr Campbell in the stomach. Dr Ahlers grapped with the attacker who bumped Dr Ahlers' head against a window. The spokesman said Dr Ahlers took the rifle and fired a shot at the attacker. It was not know whether the attacker was hit. Mr Campbell was carried to the kitchen where he died shortly afterwards.

Dr Ahlers and Michelle were admitted to hospital and were in a satisfactory condition.

One Killed in Violence at Durban's Lamontville

MB101528 Umtata Capital Radio in English 1500 GMT 10 Mar 86

[Text] Violence has erupted in Durban's Lamontville township but, as Carmel Rickard reports, there are conflicting reports about the extent and the cause.

[Rickard] According to unconfirmed reports by township residents, (?police) fired teargas at pupils attending a meeting today. There have also been reports that in shooting incidents, at least one person was killed. A police official in Pretoria said that about 1400 this afternoon a local policeman heard there was a [words indistinct]. As he went over to look through the window, he was grabbed from behind and someone tried to take his gun. In the process, a shot went off. A man was injured and has been arrested and three women were hurt. The police added that there was in fact a corpse in the house. According to Durban's King Edward VIII Hospital, only one person has so far been treated from Lamontville — a young man with a gunshot wound in his eye, sustained after he was shot at through a window. It is not clear whether these three accounts are referring to the same incident.

107 People Reportedly Die in February Violence

MB101414 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1346 GMT 10 Mar 86

[Text] Johannesburg, March 10, SAPA — The death toll in political violence over the past 10 months has risen to 1237, the South African Institute of Race Relations [SAIRR] reported in Johannesburg today.

This figure covers the period between September 1, 1984 and February 28 this year, the institute said.

It added that 107 people had died in February, as against 105 in January. "February thus accounted for the highest number of fatalities since August last year, when 163 people died."

Police Issue Latest Unrest Situation Reports

Late 10 Mar

MB101853 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1850 GMT 10 Mar 86

[Text] Pretoria, Mar 10, SAPA — The following is the police unrest report for today issued by the Police Directorate of Public Relations in Pretoria:

"The SA Police today discovered the bodies of two black men, one at Noupoort and the other along the Bedford-Adelaide railway line in the eastern Cape. Both had been burnt to death. The deaths are being investigated.

"At Lamontville near Durban, a policeman investigating a reported death was attacked and an attempt made to rob him of his shotgun. A shot went off and a black man (the one allegedly trying to take the fire arm) and three women were injured. In other incidents in this area 6 police vehicles were attacked by stonethrowers. The police fired tearsmoke and birdshot, in all instances, at their attackers. No reports of injuries have been received. Police also had to fire tearsmoke and then birdshot at stonethrowers attacking the police station. No injuries were reported.

"At East London unknown persons set fire to the South African Allied Workers Union Offices, causing extensive damage. The incident is being investigated.

"In Bellville near Cape Town, police used sjamboks to disperse about 200 coloureds who had gathered in Voortrekker Street.

"In Soweto, a private vehicle was set alight, 4 delivery vehicles looted and a police vehicle stoned, in separate incidents. In the later incident the police fired birdshot to drive off their attackers."

Early 11 Mar

MB110646 Johannesburg SAPA in English 0642 GMT 11 Mar 86

[Text] Pretoria, March 11, SAPA — Following is SAP situation report on unrest to 8am today:

"The following incidents of unrest were reported overnight:

"At Linchville near Witbank, two delivery vehicles were destroyed by arsonists.

"At Dennilton a private vehicle was extensively damaged when it was petrol-bombed.

"At Kwathema on the East Rand, two buses were stoned.

"At Soweto (WWR] [Witwatersrand], a school was estensively damaged when it was set alight.

"At Zwide near Port Elizabeth the SAP used shotgun fire to disperse mobs when their vehicles were stoned in two seperate incidents. No injuries were reported.

"Vehicles of the SAP were also stoned in the black residential areas near Somerset East and Grahamstown.

"At Aliwal North the hospital reported the admission of three black men with shotgun wounds. It is unknown by whom they were shot.

"At Langa in the WP [Western Province] a bus was stoned and a private vehicle stoned and petrol-bombed. A man was wounded when an SAP vehicle was stoned and the SAP used shotgun fire to disperse their attackers."

Ends report.

Press Comments on Current Issues, Problems

[Editorial Report]

Referendum on Power Sharing

"The snap announcement of a federal congress of the National Party in August has fuelled speculation of another constitutional referendum — this time over power-sharing with blacks," political reporter Norman West reports on the front page of Johannesburg *SUNDAY TIMES* in English on 9 March. However, "it is not known whether the congress will be asked to endorse P esident Botha's announced proposal for a national statutory council for blacks or whether more substantive constitutional proposals will be put before it." A referendum on power sharing is considered necessary since "significant sections of the National Party believe the Botha administration must gain a further mandate from the white electorate."

British Doctor Attacked

Another front-page report says that a British doctor who has been practicing at Soweto's Baragwanath Hospital for 4 years is leaving the country "after being savagely attacked by a mob in Soweto." Dr David Bowen said "he was pelted by rocks and bricks by a group of about 60 young children who started to surround him, chanting and screaming." He added that the attack was " 'not a political act, but one of sheer thuggery and violence.' "

Status of Mixed-Race Clairwood

Minister of Constitutional Development and Planning Chris Heunis and Amichand Rajbansi and Baldeo Dookie, ministers in the House of Delegates, have announced government approval for the mixed residential area of Clairwood in southern Durban to retain the status quo, the *TIMES* reports on page 2. "In terms of a government statement issued last night, Clairwood will become the country's first residential area without a racial zoning in terms of the Group Areas Act." Clairwood is mainly an Indian residential area, but people of other race groups also own property in the area. The approval has placed "strict limitations on re-sales," however. "Homeowners of one race group will not be able to sell to buyers from another race group without a permit." "The decision ends a 30-year battle by the residents to prevent city hall from taking over the suburb for industrial use."

Whites Take Blacks' Jobs in Recession

In a report on the work stayaway by black workers in Warmbaths, David Jackson says on page 7 that the chairman of the local Afrikaans Chamber of Commerce believes "about 25 to 30 percent of black workers may not get their jobs back when the strike is over." Blacks have been replaced by "a new generation of 'poor whites' in the district who have lost their jobs in the deepening recession. Many of them have eagerly jumped in to fill the sudden labour gap."

AWB To Continue Vigilante Force

Stephan Terblanch reports on the same page that Afrikaner Resistance Movement (AWB) leader Eugene TerreBlanche has criticized Police Commissioner General Johan Coetzee for his decision to refuse to allow AWB members to join the police force or the reserves. TerreBlanche told a meeting of AWB members outside Krugersdorp " 'If one wants to live in this country, I now have no alternative but to continue with the Brandwag [AWB vigilante force] and establish protection units whose job it will be to protect life and property when the police and the Defense cannot be there.' " " 'General Coetzee will have the blood of innocent people on his head because of this.' "

Welkom Votes To Open Business District

The Goldfields city of Welkom City Council has voted unanimously to apply for permission to open the central business district to traders of all races, Boeti Eshak reports on page 10. The city has also "set the pace in the Free State by launching an investigation to provide housing and other amenities for Indians who may wish to move in." Chris Rademan, city clerk, said the "broad spectrum of the Welkom business community, represented by the Chamber of Commerce, the Afrikaanse Sakekamer [Afrikaans Chamber of Commerce], the Master Builders Association and the mining companies, have all welcomed the decision."

Alexandra 'Goes Its Own Way'

Ken Owen describes the funeral for 17 unrest victims in Alexandra in the "Another View" column on page 17. "The 'comrades' turned up in force, loping in cohort around the stadium, arms raised in the ANC salute. A third of them, I estimated, were under 10 years of age." "The adults, the priests, the marshalls and the recognised leaders worked hard to preserve calm." "This is not revolution," Owen observes, "but politics, an old-fashioned South African political rally like the Nationalist rallies I used to attend as a child, when the sense of oppression and deprivation among Afrikaners was as passionate as in Alexandra today. The only difference is the presence of death, but it is politics nevertheless, in another world where the writ of the South African Government no longer runs, and where the bans of the SAP are ignored, and the flags of the CPSA [Communist Party of South Africa] and the ANC are flown without fear, and where the violent 'Comrades' are constrained by true leaders." "The township is sealed off from the white suburbs, but it is neither lawless nor anarchic. It has merely gone its own way."

Blacks Gain Political Veto Power

Professor Robert Schrire of the University of Cape Town Department of Political Studies, says in a column on page 3 that blacks have emerged as "key participants in, rather than merely as objects of, national politics." These days "reform cannot succeed without the active support of blacks." The sheer numbers, growing educational sophistication, organizational abilities and economic weight of blacks, have given black spokesmen and community leaders a "veto power over political developments." He notes that the "Government continues to seek a formula for 'healthy power sharing', which does not endanger its grip on power, seemingly unaware that this quest is a political nonstarter and a theoretical impossibility." Peaceful inter-group cooperation will only "be possible if blacks themselves are permitted to determine their own leadership and to define their issues."

Masked Whites Terrorise Township

Jeremy Shepherd Smith reports on page 1 of Johannesburg *THE SUNDAY STAR* in English of 9 March that residents and community leaders have confirmed that "masked whites dressed in civilian clothes and some dressed in police-type uniforms are conducting regular night raids on the black township of Kagiso, near Krugersdorp. They are systematically shooting residents and beating them up with truncheons, pick-handles, sjamboks and rifle butts. Police have denied that any of their members are involved and are investigating the reports." Residents of the township said "nurses at the hospital were told one day 'to expect 30 shot' and to tell the authorities when they arrived. They say they have lost all faith in the security forces as keepers of law and order."

'Blueprint' for Black Rights

David Breier reports on page 2 that the South African Government is to present a "blueprint" for black political rights to the National Party's [NP] federal congress in Durban in August "despite the government's admission that not enough black leaders have come forward for consultations on black political rights." NP sources say "the congress is only likely to give approval to certain principles," which "could include the setting up of a more permanent council consisting wholly or partly of blacks."

Black Stayaway Angers Warmbaths

Luke Zeeman reports on the same page that the week-long stayaway staged by Warmbaths' black employees has council officials and a newly-elected committee of 10 from the township "talking," but that the "conservative townsfolk are bitter and intended to crack the whip. Some want to dismiss all their workers when they return. They will re-employ them but will pay them as if they were new employees." The township committee met members of the Northern Transvaal Development Board, police officers and local community council members this week. The officials were given a "list of nine demands, among them a call for security forces to be removed from the township, reduced rents, the release of those arrested and better services in the township." "A spokesman for the Committee of 10 said it was encouraging the police were co-operating."

White Military Conscription

"The Government may soon announce the first step in reducing military conscription for whites," reports David Breier on page 4. Philip Myburgh, Progressive Federal Party (PFP) defense spokesman, said the PFP and "a number of other organisations had addressed the committee" headed by General Jannie Geldenhuys, which has been examining the structure of the defense force, and had recommended a reduction or phasing out of military conscription. Myburgh said "a number on senior SADF officers believed there were sound practical reasons for reducing the Citizen Force and building up a volunteer force." Myburgh said "voluteers were more motivated, knew their equipment better and were a more professional fighting force," and added: " 'There is an over-supply of good healthy young people who have applied to join the SADF but have been turned down.' " With current unemployment there should be no difficulty obtaining quality recruits of all races, he said.

Hostilities in Krugersdorp

Luke Zeeman reports on page 13 that the petrol-bombing of a white Dan Pienaarville home has created hostilities between the white town and a neighboring "impoverished black township of Munsieville." "Two thousand Krugersdorp men have now been called up for the local defence force commando and some will be required to patrol the no-man's-land between the two communities." A SADF spokesman said the "call-up was not unusual as similar measures had been taken elsewhere." In a related article on the same page Karen Bowes reports that the "determined Krugersdorp residents have hand-delivered a petition to the state president demanding the removal of the black township of Munsieville." The petition "containing more than 10,000 signatures went over the head of local National Party (MP), Mr Leon Wessels" despite a "government announcement that he was the person to whom the document should be sent." "To some residents, however, the petition is not enough. One particular group requested legal action through a court order, demanding a military base be erected between Munsieville and Dan Pienaarville," and some Dan Pienaarville residents have signed a declaration requesting the SADF remain in Munsieville. But "one resident, who did not wish to be quoted, said that some of Dan Pienaarville's inhabitants would be pleased if the defense force moved out because they had their 'own plans' to solve the strife."

'Stigma' of Emergency Lifted

In his "Just Jon" column on page 15, Jon Qwelane said State President P.W. Botha, "by his 'lifting' of the emergency, merely wants to discard its stigma while retaining all or many of its offensive and undesirable provisions, like shooting people 'in good faith.' " He laments that interviews on the black television channels showing the "low esteem in which the forces are held by township folk" were "not repeated on TV 1, because then Mr Botha and Co would probably have revised their own views about the alleged popularity of their forces."

'New Intensity' of Violence

An editorial on page 18 states that despite the lifting of the state of emergency, "violence is taking on new forms and a new intensity. Besides what can be termed official violence, involving the state and the ANC, there is also violence as a local-option phenomenon." There is a sense of " 'it's us or them' syndrome of survival and revenge." "Vigilante-type operations can no more be tolerated than any other form of senseless violence," and "South Africans dare not accept this spiral of human destruction as an inevitable state of affairs."

Afrikaner Youth Politically 'Isolated'

David Breier reports on the same page that a Rand Afrikaans (RAU) Department of Political Studies survey has revealed Afrikaner youth is "isolated from the political realities of South Africa." "They discovered that Afrikaans youth has a high degree of political awareness but low degree of political participation" and that they have a " 'blind faith' in the government and its leaders 'who know best.' " The survey was conducted exclusively among first year Afrikaans-speaking students, and the university careers of these "student 'guinea pigs' " will be followed "to see whether their views have changed."

Government Not About To Transfer Power

When Helen Suzman told Oxford University students "a transfer of power in South Africa was not only not imminent, it was not even under consideration," she was merely being realistic, comments Michael Green in column on page 3. The far right and the far left seem to think the government is about to "surrender to black power." "Reform is inevitable, and the pressure for change must be maintained. But it is a dangerous delusion to suppose that the government has shot its bolt."

Press Freedom

John D'Oliveira states in his "Africa View" column that he has no "doubt that South Africa must one day have a government controlled by the majority of its citizens," and that the "ANC will play a significant role in the new government." He suggests that the ANC's attitude towards democratic freedoms such as individual freedom and freedom of the press should be examined. He concludes that not all people enjoy full human and political rights in RSA, but "at least, journalists have considerable freedom to campaign for reform."

ZAMBIA

SDAR President Arrives on 2-Day Visit

MB070704 Lusaka Domestic Service in English
1800 GMT 6 Mar 86

[Text] The president of the SDAR, Mohamed Abdelaziz, has arrived for a 2-day official visit to Zambia. President Abdelaziz arrived from the Ethiopian capital, Addis Ababa, this afternoon in a special jet at the head of a 6-man delegation. President Kaunda met the SDAR president at the Lusaka International Airport with Prime Minister Kebby Musokotwane, Secretary of State for Defense and Security Alex Shapi, and other senior party and government officials. President Kaunda is to host a dinner at the State House for President Abdelaziz.

Dinner Speeches Target RSA, U.S.

MB070705 Lusaka Domestic Service in English
0600 GMT 7 Mar 86

[Text] The president has said South African President Pieter Botha is fully aware of the bloody turmoil apartheid could plunge his country into, but lacks the moral courage to do anything about it. Speaking at a dinner for the visiting SADR president, Mohamed Abdelaziz, last night, the president said although Botha was a sincere man, it was regrettable that he had failed to have courage to end the dangerous system of apartheid. He said what South Africa now needs was a leader who would accept that apartheid was doomed to fail and start dismantling it to make the country a nonracial society without having to suffer the imminent turmoil. Dr Kaunda called for immediate talks between the black and white South African leaders on the future of their country.

Turning to Namibia, the president said South Africa and the United States were the stumbling blocks to the country's independence. He said Zambia rejected their demand that Cuban troops leave Angola before Namibia could gain independence. President Kaunda and his visiting counterpart are today expected to hold official talks at State House.

RSA-Moroccan Relationship Discussed

MB071216 Lusaka Domestic Service in English
1115 GMT 7 Mar 86

[Text] The president, Dr Kaunda, has said (?Zambia) will remain true to all the suffering people who are under oppression of their fellow men. The president was speaking this morning at State House before official talks with the visiting Saharan Democratic Arab Republic president, Mohamed Abdelaziz. Dr Kaunda said that the fight of the Saharan people is not only for the Saharan people, but all those all over the world who have been oppressed by fellow men. The president said Zambians were delighted to have the Saharan delegation, but could not give a befitting welcome because of the period of national mourning in memory of Premier Olof Palme of Sweden who was killed last week.

SDAR President Mohamed Abdelaziz has said that South Africa and Morocco, against which the Saharan people are fighting a war of liberation, have close military contacts. President Abdelaziz said Morocco uses South African-trained personnel and military equipment in combats against the Saharan people. Speaking last night at a dinner hosted for him by President Kaunda at State House, Mr Abdelaziz said the Polisario movement is struggling against South African-made weapons and soldiers trained by the apartheid Pretoria regime.

Morocco claims the SDAR, a former Spanish colony, is part of its territory.

SDAR President Departs 7 Mar

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[Text] The President of the SDAR Mohamed Abdelaziz left this afternoon for home after a 2-day official visit to Zambia. Mr Abdelaziz was seen off at the international airport by President Kaunda, Prime Minister Kebby Musokotwane, Secretary of State for Defense and Security Alex Shapi, and other senior party and government officials. While in the country, President Abdelaziz, who was leading a 6-man delegation, visited the former house of Dr Kaunda in Chilenje Township.